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Editor — Donald A. Windsor
Regional Reports Editor — Robert Spahn
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EDITORIAL — JOHN J. ELLIOTT AWARD

Donald A. Windsor

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Each year at our Annual Meetings, the Federation bestows the Elliott Award to the author(s) of the best article published in *The Kingbird* the previous calendar year. John Jackson Elliott was the President of the Federation from 1962 until his sudden death on 28 June 1963 (Arbib 1963). The award in his honor was established in 1964 by a special committee appointed by President Robert S. Arbib, Jr. and chaired by Cornelius J. Ward (Arbib 1964). Award presentations are now regularly published with our Annual Meeting minutes, but were not during the 1970s and early 1980s. Here is a list of the 36 awardees and their 29 articles.

Authors	Article
Stephen W. Eaton	The Wild Turkey in New York State. 1964 Jan; 14(1): 4-12.
David B. Peakall	Pesticides and wildlife. 1965 Jan; 15(1): 5-12.
Walter R. Spofford	
Robert P. Yunick	Data gathered from the redpoll flight of 1966. 1966 Oct; 16(3): 193-205.
Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.	Conservation and state secrets. 1967 Jan; 17(1): 16-18. + "Natural beauty" is a 20th Century phrase. 1967 Oct; 17(4): 210-212.
Allen H. Benton	Weather and Purple Martin mortality in western New York. 1968 May; 18(2): 71-75.
Herbert Tucker	
William Post	Reappearance of the Black Rail on Long Island. 1969 Oct; 19(4): 189-191.
Frank Enders	
No award given	1970
James R. McAllister	Locomotion, maintenance and feeding behavior in the Great Blue Heron in Northern New York. 1971 Oct; 21(4): 183-203.
George R. Maxwell	
Gilbert S. Raynor	Overland feeding flights by the Common Tern of Long Island. 1972 May; 22(2): 63-71.

James N. Briggs John R. Haugh	Habitat selection in birds with the consideration of the potential establishment of the Monk Parakeet (<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>) in North America. 1973 Jan; 23(1): 3-13.
No award given	1974
Morgan V. Jones III	Brown-headed Cowbird brood parasitism on the Eastern Phoebe. 1975 Jul; 25(3): 119-123.
Thomas J. Rauber	Notes on a New York nest of the Bald Eagle. 1976 Summer; 26(3): 122-135.
Robert F. Andrie	Gulls on the Niagara Frontier. 1977 Summer; 27(3): 118-134.
Dan Nickerson	Wilson's Warbler nests in New York. 1978 Fall; 28(4): 215-220.
Thomas H. Davis	(Many articles) 1979
No award given	1980
No award given	1981
Norma Siebenheller Bill Siebenheller	Blue Grosbeak nesting in New York State: a first record. 1982 Fall; 32(4): 234-238.
George Maxwell Gerald Smith	Reproductive success of island nesting Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns in the St. Lawrence River. 1983 Winter; 33(1): 26-33.
John M. C. Peterson	First record of Palm Warbler nesting in New York State. 1984 Winter; 34(1): 2-7.
Laura W. Moon Neil S. Moon	Braddock Bay spring hawk migrations. 1985 Winter; 35(1): 7-31.
Bob Dickerman	A review of the Red Crossbill in New York State. Part 1. Historical and nomenclatural background. 1986 Spring; 36(2): 73-82. Part 2. Identification of specimens from New York. 1986 Summer; 36(3): 127-134.
Michele H. Frech John L. Confer	The Golden-winged Warbler: competition with the Blue-winged Warbler and habitat selection in portions of southern, central and northern New York. 1987 Spring; 37(2): 65-71.

Janet Carroll	Status and breeding ecology of the Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>) in New York. 1988 Summer; 38(3): 159-172.
Gerald A. Smith	Point Peninsula, Jefferson County; mouse raptor mecca during the winter of 1987-1988. 1989 Winter; 39(1): 7-20.
No award given	1990
Melinda G. Knutson	Characteristics of Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>) nesting habitat at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, New York. 1991 Fall; 41(4): 228-236.
No award given	1992
Ken Feustel	An ephemeral shorebird habitat at Cedar Overlook Beach, Suffolk County, New York. 1993 Sep; 43(3): 170-184.
Polly Rothstein	Cooper's Hawk nesting in a suburban yard. 1993 Dec; 43(4): 278-292.
William W. Watson	Establishment of the Great Blue Heron colony on Motor Island. 1994 Dec; 44(4): 268-276.
No award given	1995
Valerie M. Freer Joan Visconti	Population trends of birds at feeders in Sullivan County N.Y. 1981-1994. 1996 March; 46(1): 4-12.

Four of these articles had no references and one had 34. The typical (median) article had 7 references. Journals were cited just slightly more than books. Only 9 articles cited *The Kingbird*.

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ESTABLISHING THE ACCURACY OF FIELD IDENTIFICATIONS OF BIRDS: METHODS AND MOTIFS

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ABSTRACT — Often, when unusual birds are observed, or common birds are observed under unusual circumstances, the observer will want to report what has been seen to someone. Watching birds for recreation and making tangible contributions to the science of bird study are not mutually exclusive pursuits. To be useful in science-based conservation efforts, field observations of birds, especially rarities, have to be accurate and subject to review and verification. Observers need to remember that panels of reviewers, or state records committees, are not necessarily challenging the observer's veracity when they reject a written report of an observation. Rather, they are concluding that the written account of the observation, by itself, simply was not sufficiently convincing to verify the reported identification and establish or confirm the accuracy of the report. A number of complex and interacting factors can affect the accurate identification of a bird in the field. Those factors involve establishment of temporal, spatial, and social contexts for the observation, along with consideration of the equipment and experience of the observer. Collecting and reporting the kinds of information described in this paper, at the time an observation is made, can enhance your chances that an observation will be verifiable and acceptable as an accurate, permanent record of the occurrence of a species.

INTRODUCTION

There has been much progress in methods for bird identification since Audubon verified his observations over the barrel of a muzzle-loader. There also is a growing recognition of the value of observations reported in the form of floral or faunal lists for assessing the relevance of different land areas to regional biodiversity conservation efforts (Palmer *et al.* 1995, Smith 1991, 1994). Information about the species of birds occurring in a circumscribed geographic area (*e.g.*, nature preserve, refuge, county, or state) can be useful in assessing the contributions the local area makes to regional patterns of biodiversity (Scott *et al.* 1993). The State Parks Check-list Project of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs is just one example of how local bird lists can be useful in assessing the extent to which any given state park contributes to the bird species variety of the larger land area within which it

occurs (Smith 1994), allowing conservationists to evaluate both the content and the context of the state park with respect to the birds reported there (Smith 1991). The production of local and regional lists of birds, documenting species occurrences for some region of interest, relies extensively upon the observations of birdwatchers.

To be useful in science-based conservation efforts (Smith 1991, 1994), field observations of birds, especially rarities, have to be accurate and subject to review and verification. In the absence of a museum specimen, one's observations can be subjected to alternative means of verification. I will describe here some of the considerations essential to establishing the accuracy of field identifications of birds, especially rarities, without necessarily requiring that a specimen be collected.

Often, when unusual birds are observed, or common birds are observed under unusual circumstances, the observers will want to report what has been seen to someone. Observers also may expect their observations to be published in a local or regional report, or added to checklists of birds for the region in which the observation occurred. In so doing, one may be challenged to demonstrate the accuracy and veracity of the observation and evidence may be solicited to verify the account and establish its accuracy (Spahn 1997). In contexts where verification of observations is desirable, good quality photographs or sound recordings of the observed species can supplement the written account. However, because cameras and tape recorders can be subject to some of the same illusions that influence human observers (for visual examples, see Grant 1983), photographs or sound recordings do not substitute for a detailed, written account of the observation. Ideally, such written accounts, possibly including hand-drawn sketches, are prepared in the field at the time of the observation. Detailed descriptions of birds from such written accounts should be sufficient to permit identification of the species, using only the written description, by an independent, experienced observer. The written account certainly can be supplemented with photographs, or sound recordings, but such supporting evidence should complement and not in any way substitute for the detailed written account.

Both experienced and inexperienced observers need to be aware of how the viewing conditions under which the observation was made can affect their interpretations of what was seen. For example, a dark bird against a pale background or a pale bird against a dark background can give very different impressions of size, making absolute size of the bird in the field difficult to judge and significantly limiting the value of size by itself as a field mark (Grant 1983). In addition, the orange or yellow atmospheric hue resulting from a rising or setting sun can make the pale undersides of some species appear yellowish or reddish in color, when they actually may be white or gray.

Observers also should remember that panels of reviewers, or state records committees, are not necessarily challenging the observer's veracity when they reject a written report of an observation. Rather, they are concluding that the written account of the observation, by itself, simply was not sufficiently convincing to verify the reported identification and establish or confirm the accuracy of the report. A good example of the technical challenges in making some field identifications, as well as the pitfalls of photographic evidence, is found in the summary of the status of Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) in New York, recently reported by Salzman (1997). And at another level, when the possible observation of a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in New York is contemplated, how often is the likelihood of an occurrence of the very similar Common Crane (*Grus grus*), escaped from captivity, considered in identifying the species in the field?

With the growth in popularity of birding as a hobby and a concomitant growth in the sport of listing birds competitively, the need for a system of careful review of reports of rarities and potential additions to state lists of species is more important now than ever before. None other than Ludlow Griscom, Arthur A. Allen's first graduate student (Davis 1994), made the following observation relating to sources of inaccurate identifications (Griscom 1922):

"Mental attitude of the observer: By this I mean, in part, list-crazy enthusiasts, whose one idea is to get as large a daily, monthly, or yearly list as possible, and whose greatest happiness is to add some rare or casual visitant to their list. As this attitude is neither ornithological nor scientific, their observations are unavoidably open to suspicion."

Given a modern tendency for the urgency of competitive listing to replace the artistry and aesthetics of more casual bird study, Griscom's observation may be more relevant today than it was 75 years ago. What an observer adds or does not add to their life list is purely their business, rather like religion and politics. But when an observer decides they have seen a bird that is sufficiently rare to want to report the observation and have it accepted by others, they have to be prepared to submit to different, sometimes more demanding, standards and greater scrutiny (see Spahn 1997), and to accept the likelihood that they may have made an error in identification — not an easy possibility for some birders to comprehend.

For those geographic areas where checklists exist (e.g., many states and most national parks and wildlife refuges), a report of any species observed that either does not appear on the published list, or is listed as "Accidental" on that list, should be accompanied by written details of the observation. The suggestions which follow are based, in part, on those offered by Axtell (1955),

and form a basis for evaluations of observations of rarities in modern times by many state records committees, like the New York State Avian Records Committee (DeBenedictis 1978).

RECOMMENDED METHODS

The process by which a field observation becomes a verified record of occurrence is summarized in Figure 1. During the process of documenting an observation, the observer should seek information to answer a series of straightforward questions about the bird being observed. These questions include at least the following: "What species is it?," "Should it be here, at this geographic location, at this time of year, in this habitat?," and "Has it occurred in this area before?" While considerable time and energy may be focused upon answering the first question, the subsequent questions, all equally important and answerable with most field guides or local checklists, may not be given the attention they deserve. Also, a number of complex and interacting factors can affect the answers to these questions. Taking those factors into consideration involves establishment of temporal, spatial, and social contexts for the observation, along with reporting the optical equipment and reference materials used and experience of the observer. Collecting and reporting the kinds of information described below can enhance your chances that a reported observation will be verifiable and accepted as an accurate record of occurrence.

Temporal Context:

A temporal context for the observation can be established if the following information is obtained:

- ♦ Date and time of day of the observation, noting whether the time of day is standard time or daylight savings time.
- ♦ Length of time the bird was studied and whether it was determined from a timepiece or estimated.

Spatial Context:

The spatial context for the observation can be addressed with the following information:

- ♦ Detailed account of the location of the observation; include distance from a nearby highway intersection or prominent landmark; a map or specific reference to the name of the appropriate US Geological Survey topographic map is helpful.
- ♦ What was the position of the bird in relation to the observer (*e.g.*, high in a tree, on the ground, in low bushes, flying or perched)?
- ♦ What was the habitat like; in what kinds of vegetation was the bird seen?
- ♦ Distance at which you saw the bird and how the distance was judged, *i.e.*, estimated, paced, or measured with a tape.

Permanent, Printed Documentation



Record



**Review and Verification
by State Records Committee**



Written Report(s)



Field Observation

Figure 1. A flowchart showing the process by which an original field observation of a bird species becomes reported, reviewed, established as an accurate identification, and permanently documented as a record of occurrence. Ideally, permanent documentation would be in a state journal like *The Kingbird*, but it also could take the form of a local or regional check-list or regional avifaunal study. Multiple, written reports of the observation, independently submitted by several observers, are better than just one report from one observer.

- ♦ Lighting conditions: (a) Was it generally clear and sunny or were there light, medium, or dark clouds, or rain? (b) Was the bird in the open or in light, medium, or deep shade? (c) Where was the sun as you faced the bird and in relation to the bird (behind you, in front of you, to your left or right side)?

Social context:

The more complicated and potentially more sensitive social context can be addressed by collecting and reporting the following kinds of information:

- ♦ Names of other observers accompanying you who saw the bird, and identified it in agreement with your identification.
- ♦ Names of other observers, if any, who independently identified the bird in agreement with your identification, with an explanation of the circumstances.
- ♦ Were written field notes, including most of the above information, taken in the field at the time of the observation? If notes were not taken in the field, how long after the observation were they transcribed and what references were consulted in the interim.

Equipment and Experience:

Finally, some information regarding the equipment used and your own experience needs to be reported:

- ♦ Type (binocular or spotting scope), manufacturer, magnification, objective lens diameter, and condition of optical equipment used.
- ♦ References consulted: (a) Did you use a field guide or similar aid during the observation? (b) Have you consulted any aid such as a book, illustration, or knowledgeable ornithologist since the observation? (c) If you answer, "Yes" to either (a) or (b), how, specifically, did the aid(s) consulted influence your conclusions and what aid was used?
- ♦ Your previous acquaintance with this species; how many times have you seen it over how many years? How many years have you been watching birds?

CONCLUSION

An awareness and explicit consideration of the points just discussed, at the time of the observation, can enhance the chances that an important observation will be verifiable and acceptable as a record of occurrence to more experienced observers and to committees of reviewers. There are numerous opportunities for amateurs and enthusiasts to contribute to our understanding of the dynamics of seasonal occurrences of birds and the changing geographic distributions of some species. Watching birds for recreation and making tangible contributions to the science of bird study are not mutually exclusive pursuits. Perhaps the

best summary statement of the subtle challenges we face with bird identification in the field is provided by John Burroughs in the following quote from his essay, "Ways of Nature," published in 1905:

"The power to see straight is the rarest of gifts: to see no more and no less than is actually before you; to be able to detach yourself and see the thing as it actually is, uncolored or unmodified by your own sentiments or prepossessions. In short, to see with your reason as well as with your perceptions, that is to be an observer and to read the book of nature aright."

To increase the likelihood that their observations will be accepted by the ornithological community, especially when rare species are reported, observers should be prepared to convince skeptical reviewers of the accuracy of their observations with detailed, written accounts of what they saw. For the serious reader desiring to review this subject in greater detail, the bibliography in Appendix A may be of interest.

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APPENDIX A - ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

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INTERACTION OF EASTERN PHOEBE AND DRAGONFLY

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ABSTRACT — Interactions between an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) and Shadow Darner dragonflies (*Aeschna umbrosa*) were observed.

Late (8:25 pm) on the evening of August 6, 1996, my attention was drawn to the antics of an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) hunting from the top of a dead snag. I focused my 7 x 35 binoculars on the bird and discovered that it had company, 15 to 20 large dragonflies feeding on the same hatch of insects. This was an ideal opportunity to watch the interaction of these two species. For the next 40 minutes I closely watched the feeding frenzy of the flycatcher and dragonfly through my 40 power scope.

Both the flycatcher and dragonflies were observed at the edge of a clearing in the woods. Two small brooks (Jackson and Falls) here in the town of Elizabethtown (Essex County) flow out of the mountains and into The Branch, a tributary of the Boquet River. The edge of the clearing is ringed by large white pines, a few of which are now dead. The phoebe alternately used these tall dead snags as a perch from which it launched itself into a hatch of insects.

The dragonflies were of the genus *Aeschna*. These are the dominant blue darners of the Northern Hemisphere (Needham and Westfall 1975), *Aeschna umbrosa*, the Shadow Darner, the most widespread and abundant aeschnid species in the Boquet River watershed (Gretch, unpublished data). This large species measures between 64 and 73 mm in length (about 2 3/4 inches). It is widespread across New York State. In the Adirondacks the adult emerges in July and flies into the end of September.

The behavior of this swarm of Shadow Darners was typical of the species. Walker (1953) says, "In early summer [4.] *umbrosa* is most active later in the afternoon and in the evening. Its habit of ranging widely over roads and in clearings about dusk have often been noted." Holder (1996) says that Shadow Darners "frequently fly at dusk, extending their forays to more open areas as the risk of predation by kingbirds and other avian predators diminishes."

The question that immediately came to mind while I was watching the Shadow Darner, was whether the phoebe would also feed on these dragonflies? On many occasions they flew very close to the perched phoebe. If it was at all possible for the phoebe to catch one, it would be a meal equivalent to at least 10 or 20 of the more abundant smaller insects. The reward is great to go after a large dragonfly. But, this young phoebe had already learned the limits of its

ability. They are flycatchers, but not dragonfly catchers. A phoebe is no match for the speed and ability of these large dragonflies.

Watching the hunting behavior of the phoebe it became apparent that its hunting style was not suited to catch quick flying insects. Unlike swallows which are constantly on the wing, the phoebe hunts from a perch and sallies out from its snag to pluck an insect from the air. In watching the phoebe for some 40 minutes I never saw it chase or catch a dragonfly.

Aeshnid dragonflies are constantly on the wing and do not hunt from a perch like some other dragonfly species. They are aerialists of the first order. It would take the speed and agility of a swallow to catch one of the Shadow Darners in midair. Spada (1996) has in fact reported "barn swallows practicing aerial acrobatics by catching Aeshnid dragonflies."

Bent (1963) lists the major food sources of the Eastern Phoebe reported by Beal and it does not include dragonflies. Bent, however, goes on to say that, "As we see the phoebe in the field, the dragonfly appears to be a more prominent article of food than Professor Beal's examinations of stomachs indicate. Phoebes eat medium-sized dragonflies frequently and feed them to their young."

Shadow Darners are large, not medium sized, dragonflies.

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KLEPTOPARASITISM OF AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS BY RINGED-BILLED GULLS

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Each fall, I have cruised the plowed fields in the western New York Lake Ontario plain looking for flocks of American Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominicus*) and other migrants that frequent this habitat.

On Friday, 5 September 1997, I watched American Golden Plovers at the Breslawski Farms in Hamlin, Monroe County. There were extensive plowed fields on both the north and south sides of North Hamlin Road. I sat in the car and watched 13 American Golden-Plovers, along with Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) on the south side of the road. Surprisingly, the American Golden-Plovers were distributed over the entire field which was at least 300 yards deep to the first knoll and 500 or more yards wide. It became immediately obvious that one, two, or three Ring-billed Gulls, all of which were adults, were chasing individual plovers.

The plovers were feeding on worms, probably earthworms, which were several inches long. As soon as a plover would pick up a worm, a gull would fly after it. The plover would quickly take flight with the worm hanging from its bill. It would easily outdistance the gull and land again. But the gull would catch up and the plover would take flight again, flying in long arcs very close to the ground with the gull in pursuit. Eventually, the plover would drop the worm and the gull would land and fetch the prey. These chases lasted up to about one minute. I watched this scene repeated at least six times in a half-hour period, and, in most cases, the gull was successful in stealing the prey. I noticed that at least on one occasion, a Killdeer caught a worm but the gulls did not pursue it.

This scenario was brought to a halt when three or four American Golden Plovers, apparently from the north field, started giving alarm calls from above my head. With these alarm calls, both the gulls and plovers left the field. The plovers from both fields assembled in a large flock of about 40 birds, made one pass over the field and headed due south. The gulls left the area and about two minutes later, an immature Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) appeared.

It is not unusual to find American Golden Plovers on large plowed fields that also have migrant Ring-billed Gulls. Usually, however, they are well separated. In my time as a birder, I have found flocks of American Golden Plovers at least 100 times and never seen this behavior. I speculate that the maintenance of separation is a defense tactic for the plovers.

Kleptoparasitism, the forceful taking of food by one species from another, is a well-known practice of certain gulls (Brockman and Barnard 1979). Black-

headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) has been known to pirate numerous species of birds (Baccetti 1987), including Lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) and Greater Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*) for worms in both spring and fall (Kallander 1977). Greater Golden-Plovers have adapted their feeding habits to minimize the effects of this parasitism (Thompson 1983). Ring-billed Gulls have been reported to pirate both ducks (Chavez-Ramirez 1995) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) (Warnock 1989).

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SUBSPECIES OF ICELAND GULL IN NEW YORK STATE

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ABSTRACT — Literature on the two subspecies of Iceland Gull in New York State has been reviewed. The difficulties of differentiating *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* from *L. glaucoides glaucoides* are detailed. It is concluded that virtually every field mark known for identifying *glaucoides* can sometimes be matched, or at least closely approached, by *kumlieni*. It would either take a specimen of *glaucoides* or a classic adult, carefully studied under good field conditions, preferably with photographs, to support its occurrence in New York State.

INTRODUCTION

Recently, *Kingbird* Region 10 Editors Schiff and Wollin made a request for "...written details on observations of Iceland Gulls with pure white primaries", noting that the subspecies *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* is the only form recorded in New York to date. They noted "an increasing number of reports of Iceland Gulls with "all white" wings, presumably of the nominate subspecies *glaucoides*." They also stated that "either birders are now more alert or a change in the relative abundance of these two is occurring here." (Schiff and Wollin 1996)

I applaud these Editors for alerting birders to the possibility of the nominate subspecies of Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) occurring in New York State and also for their request for written details. However, I am concerned that birders may oversimplify an extremely difficult field identification challenge. Therefore, it is the intent of this paper to clarify the status of the two subspecies in the state and to discuss how to differentiate between them in the field.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are currently two subspecies of Iceland Gull recognized by the American Ornithologist's Union (1973), "'Kumlien's" Iceland" Gull (*L. g. kumlieni*) and the nominate subspecies (*L. g. glaucoides*). The breeding range of *kumlieni* is restricted to northeastern Canada while *glaucoides* breeds largely on Greenland. Zimmer (1990) states (p 129) that "most (if not all) Iceland Gulls likely to be seen in North America are of the subspecies *kumlieni*". Zimmer (1991) says that the status of *glaucoides* as a visitor to North America is supported by only a few specimens, mostly from northeastern Canada, and that some of these are disputed. Though Godfrey (1986) called *glaucoides* a non-breeding visitor to southeastern Canada, both he and Pittaway (1992)

considered the nominate subspecies to be extremely rare. Pittaway (1992), referring to Godfrey as an internationally recognized taxonomist and leading authority on the Iceland Gull, stated that Godfrey had confirmed an adult specimen of *glaucoides* from Ontario. In addition, referring to another Ontario specimen, Pittaway quoted Godfrey as stating that it was "almost certainly" of the nominate subspecies.

Bull (1974) is ambiguous about the status of Iceland Gull in New York State. He states that both subspecies are found in New York and that "*kumlieni* appears to be the prevailing form." However, he gives no evidence that *glaucoides* has occurred and also states that the five specimens which he examined all pertained to *kumlieni*. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965), referring to the Niagara Frontier region of western New York, called *glaucoides* an uncommon to rare winter visitant and *kumlieni* an irregular very rare visitant. Andrlé (1977), referring to the same region, noted that both subspecies had occurred and that adults of *kumlieni* are seen more often than adults of *glaucoides*.

From this review of the literature, we find a conflict regarding the status of the two subspecies of Iceland Gull. One set of references considers *kumlieni* the expected subspecies in North America and *glaucoides*, at best, as extremely rare. The three older references for New York State suggest that both subspecies are at least somewhat regular.

I believe that the information given in the references for New York is incorrect and that there has been a misconception regarding the status of the two subspecies. This apparent misconception is not unique to New York. Pittaway (1992) pointed out that Ontario birders have believed that *glaucoides* is the expected subspecies for a long time. This belief may have resulted, in part, from the difficulty of viewing gray in the wingtips of many *kumlieni*, especially with the lesser quality optics of the past. Also, some immatures of *kumlieni*, which are more frequent than adults in western New York and southern Ontario, lack gray markings in the wingtips and these may have been assumed to be *glaucoides*. In addition the extreme variability of *kumlieni*, which will be discussed, may not have been fully appreciated in the past. The late Harold Axtell, an excellent field observer who studied gulls on the Niagara River at great length, believed that the "Kumlien's" subspecies was the only one that occurred in the Niagara Frontier region, (personal communication). My own observations on the Niagara River over the last 14 years agree with Axtell's. Although *glaucoides* could have been more frequent in the past before my field studies, Axtell was a contemporary of Beardslee and Mitchell and he did not note that such was the case.

IDENTIFICATION

The difficulties of identifying the nominate subspecies of Iceland Gull cannot be overstated and it should only be attempted with extreme caution. As is well known, *glaucoides* has all white wingtips while *kumlieni* has gray markings on the wingtips. However, the gray markings on *kumlieni* not only vary in darkness but also in extent. In fact this variation is extreme, contrary to Grant (1986). Some individuals of *kumlieni* may even have all white wingtips (Zimmer 1991)! Several times on the Niagara River, birds believed to be nominate subspecies Iceland Gulls, based upon wingtips that appeared to be all white, have been pointed out to me. When finally given a sufficient view, however, I have always found at least a trace of gray in the wingtips. To discern the gray, it sometimes requires an unusually close view or a good quality high power telescope, with the wingtips seen while fully spread. This is not to suggest that an Iceland Gull with all white wingtips has never been found on the Niagara River, only that it requires a great look and considerable effort to confirm that feature. And, even if one has been found, it is not necessarily *glaucoides*.

Immaculate white wingtips are not the only field mark to look for when studying a prospective *glaucoides*. Compared with *kumlieni*, *glaucoides* is smaller, smaller-billed, paler mantled (similar to Glaucous Gull, *L. hyperboreus*), has clear yellow eyes, and on a winter adult, pale spotting if present, is confined to the head and nape (Pittaway 1992, Godfrey 1986). It is again worth noting the great variability of "Kumlien's" Iceland" Gull. Not only can the gray in the wingtips of *kumlieni* vary from approaching those of a Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*) in extent to completely unmarked white (thus matching *glaucoides*) but the eyes can vary from dark to light (the latter predominates). On winter adults the head, neck, and breast streaking may be extensive, producing a hooded look, or, rarely, these areas may be entirely unmarked (thus like *glaucoides*). The "Kumlien's" mantle shade of gray is usually very slightly paler than that of a Herring Gull (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*) but as with every other feature this, too, is variable. To add to the challenge, perceptions of mantle color are often not straightforward but are dependent upon light and background conditions. Finally, as with the other large gulls, there is marked sexual dimorphism. Thus, while many *kumlieni* are the same size as a Herring Gull, some females can be strikingly small, both in overall size and in bill structure, thus approaching *glaucoides*.

Currently, it is not known with certainty whether the extreme variability of *kumlieni* as just described is a natural occurrence within that subspecies, or if it is due to interbreeding with *glaucoides* and Thayer's Gull, or both. Knudson found widespread interbreeding between "Kumlien's" and Thayer's gulls on Baffin Island in the Canadian arctic (Godfrey 1986). Snell (unpublished) and

Zimmer (1991) noted clinal variation in pigmentation from the darkest and westerly Thayer's Gull, to the more central *kumlieni*, to the palest and easterly *glaucoides*. That is, there appears to be no clean break in the characters used to distinguish these three types in the field. This clinal variation rather strongly suggests interbreeding not only between Thayer's and "Kumlien's" gulls, but also between *kumlieni* and *glaucoides*. Despite the complexity of the situation, the end-points of this cline, represented by a typical or "classic" Thayer's Gull and *glaucoides*, should be recognizable in the field.

CONCLUSION

For the birder looking for the nominate subspecies of Iceland Gull, beware! Virtually every field mark known for identifying *glaucoides* can sometimes be matched, or at least closely approached, by *kumlieni*. It would either take a specimen of *glaucoides* or a classic adult, carefully studied under good field conditions, preferably with photographs, to support its occurrence in New York State.

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CORRECTION TO THE 1995 BIBLIOGRAPHY

With apologies to Robert H. Lewis who was omitted as the joint author of the following article:

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Please send any additions or corrections to the above bibliography to:
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LETTER — REGIONAL REPORTS. CHANGES WERE NO IMPROVEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

As a subscriber to *The Kingbird* for over twenty years, as well as a former Region 10 editor, I have followed with interest the recent discussions of form and content in *The Kingbird* (Windsor 1996 and 1997, Marcotte 1996, Ferrer 1996, Wilson 1996, Spahn 1996 and 1997, Lauro 1997, Suggs 1997).

Both Journal And Magazine Needed

Windsor (1997) makes an important distinction in pointing out the differences between a journal and a magazine. More important was his realization that many of the readers of *The Kingbird* think of it as a magazine, while he – the editor, thinks of it as a journal. Personally, I too have always looked at it as more of a journal than a magazine. Windsor also says that a magazine “is free to cater to reader demands ... it has to or it becomes extinct.” A journal, however, is not free of the danger of extinction merely because it is a journal. Research libraries contain many “fossils” of journals that ceased to meet the demands of their readers and became extinct. Any periodical must attract and hold a readership. I think a source of the conflict running through the recent discussions is indeed a difference in view of *The Kingbird*, but it is one that Windsor only briefly touched upon. It is the view of *The Kingbird* as primarily a storehouse of potential research material, as opposed to a publication to be read for its content now. In the first case the audience is the future, in the second the audience is the current readership. Spahn (1996, 1997), Wilson (1996) and Suggs (1997) are all emphasizing *The Kingbird* as a long term database, while Ferrer (1996) and Lauro (1997) are taking the more immediate view. Neither view is wrong. A publication must take both views into account. In weighing the two goals, however, it must be remembered that the second has a very important role in determining a publication's continued existence and thus its ability to fulfill the first.

Older Literary Style Preferred

Over the years I have been a subscriber, *The Kingbird* has gone through a number of changes, primarily in the form of the Regional Reports. Many of these changes, I believe, have been in an effort to make them somehow more scientific in form and content. Unfortunately, one result has been to render them virtually unreadable. Twenty years ago the Regional Reports were written

in full (or nearly full) English sentences – both the introductory paragraphs and the main body of the reports. I routinely read my home Region's report and skimmed other Regional Reports to get a feel for what was going on across the state. It has now been years since I read the Regional Reports, except when forced to for research purposes. In writing species accounts for the upcoming revision of *John Bull's Birds of New York State*, I did not find the more recent abbreviated style any more helpful than the older literary style, quite the reverse. It was harder to read, and certainly boring. I also think writing the reports in coherent English sentences forced Regional editors to think more about the observations submitted. I know it did for me. I realize that "space (= cost)", as Spahn (1996) put it, is a consideration. *The Kingbird* today averages more pages per issue than ever, however, is anyone reading them?

Observer Initials Preferred

The question of saving space brings up another point. As a past Regional editor I agree with Lauro (1997) on the importance of including observer initials on all records and not sacrificing these to some space-saving measure. It is important to acknowledge the efforts of the birders who contribute to the Regional Reports. Limiting the use of initials to "special" records as advocated by Spahn (1996) will, I believe, be counter-productive. Marcotte (1996) and others have pointed out the importance of reports on common birds, not just rarities. As a Regional editor I regularly pleaded for such material. To only place observer initials after "special" records sends exactly the wrong message to contributors! It says that only unusual records are considered important. In the long run, I think it will discourage contributions.

Arrival, Departure Tables — The Weekend Effect

If the space devoted to observer initials is truly that critical, thought should be given to the space allocated to the tables of arrival and departure dates published twice yearly. In the years these tables have been appearing in *The Kingbird* I don't believe one of the truly amazing "phenomena" they "document" has ever been pointed out. This is the tendency for migratory birds to arrive and depart on weekends! As an example, I have analyzed the Spring 1997 arrival dates given in the September 1997 issue (pp. 250-252). A total of 864 arrival dates for the ten Regions are included in the table for the months of March, April and May. Of these 328 dates, or 38.0% fall on weekends. During this three month period 27 of the 92 days, or 29.3% were weekend days. All else being equal, you would expect 29.3% of the arrival dates on weekends, rather than 38.0%. A standard chi square statistical test shows there is less than a .00000002 chance of this difference being due to random chance. In a month by month analysis, the bias in favor of weekends is even more striking in the

early months of the migration period: March - 32.2% weekend days, 49.5% weekend arrival dates; April - 26.7% weekend days, 36.9% weekend arrivals, May - 29.0% weekend days, 35.9% weekend arrivals. While the bias in favor of weekends diminishes as the season progresses, it never disappears and is statistically significant in all three months. Of course, this is an artifact of observer effort and reflects the fact that birders do most of their birding on weekends. The bias is lessened as more birders spend more time in the field during the peak May migration period, but it is always there. Considerable space (and effort) is expended in *The Kingbird* looking for average "differences" usually amounting to a day or two, when the "resolution" of the data, so to speak, is six to seven days wide. In addition, because of the way the calendar works, there is an automatic shift of at least one day from one year to the next as the days of the week shift.

It has been stated that "early and late dates, while interesting to birders, are mainly weather, observer effort, and luck driven" (Spahn 1996). There is undoubtedly much truth in that, but the same is at least equally true for arrival and departure dates though their tabulation tends to lend them a veneer of precision. Should the tables be discontinued? Not necessarily. If they are of interest to the membership of the Federation, that is sufficient justification for them, provided of course their limitations are understood. I did not do this analysis of the arrival dates table to in anyway disparage the tremendous effort they represent. I merely wish to point out the trap of thinking that putting observations into a tabulated, numeric form in some way automatically makes them more scientifically valid than other forms of observational data.

CONCLUSIONS

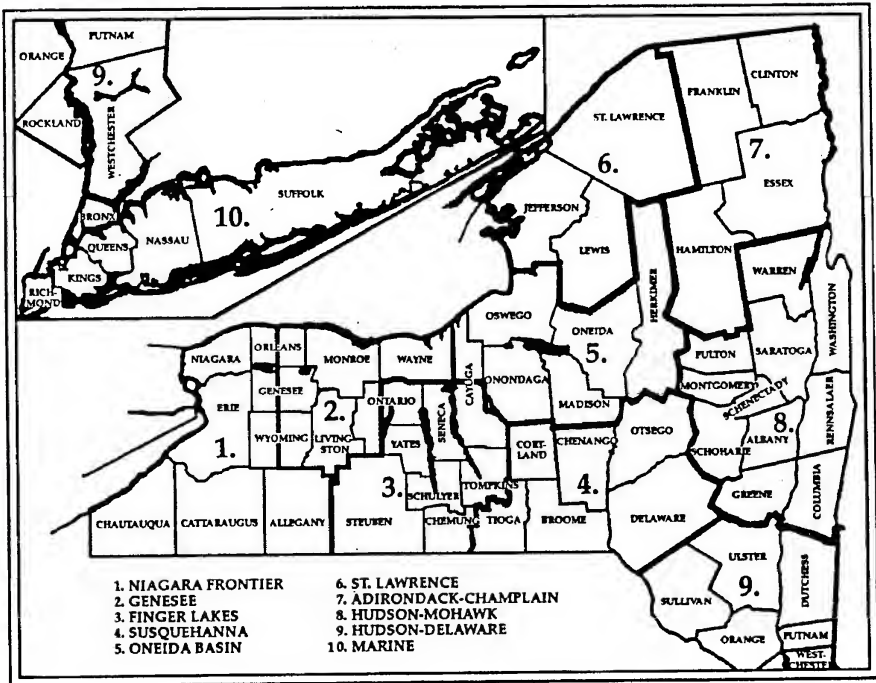
I believe the various views expressed in these on-going discussions are all valid. Unfortunately, it may not be possible to accommodate them all in a single publication in a way that will make everyone equally happy. Trade-offs and compromises must be made. *The Kingbird*, while it has many of the aspects and goals of a journal, is the publication of a membership organization made up primarily of non-scientists. Its existence depends on the support and input of that membership – all of it volunteered. High standards should be maintained, but *The Kingbird* must remain of interest to the members of the Federation. My own bias would tend toward current readability while not sacrificing standards or content. I do not believe these things are mutually exclusive. The editor has the unenviable job of finding this balance and walking this tightrope, while others throw things, in the form of their opinions, at him (*mea culpa*). As both a Federation member, and the editor of the Linnaean Society of New York's newsletter, he has my understanding, sympathy and good wishes.

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REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except* at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON 1997

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Although drier than average, the summer was pleasant and benign in all Regions. There were no tropical storms of note and the only real weather concern was a mild drought in several Regions that abated with a wetter than average August. Temperatures were normal to slightly less in most Regions, making for comfortable birding and, probably, improved nesting success for many species. The one negative was the impact of the dry weather on the wild food crop, which may be in short supply this fall and winter.

Like last year the cold spring held back several migrants into the summer period. In addition there were a number of early fall arrivals. Most noteworthy of the tardy group were Tundra Swan in Region 1, Glaucous Gull in Region 2, Am. Pipit in Region 5, Wilson's Warbler in Region 6, Red-necked Grebe in Region 9, and White-crowned Sparrow to 26 Jun in Region 2. Horned Grebes returned early in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 6. In Region 3 both Horned and Red-necked grebes stayed through the season. Other significantly early arrivals were Rough-legged Hawk in Regions 2 and 4, Palm Warbler in Region 4, and Am. Pipit and a very early Black-legged Kittiwake in Region 5.

There were a number of waterfowl species of interest this summer which are difficult to place in either early or late categories. After their record abundance of spring, it is not too surprising that Snow Geese were found in Regions 3, 5, and 6. More exceptional were a Brant in Region 8 and eiders - lots of them - off Montauk Point. The newfound abundance of wintering Common Eider spilled over through the summer with a maximum of 200. Four King Eiders joined them in mid-June. Other ducks of interest were both scaup in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 9; Lesser Scaup in Region 5 and Greater Scaup in Region 9; Ring-necked Duck in Regions 1, 5, and 8; Canvasback in Regions 3 and 6; Common Goldeneye in Regions 5 and 6; Bufflehead in Regions 3, 5, and 6; White-winged Scoter and several Ruddy Ducks in Region 1; and Black Scoter in Region 10.

The summer season is the time that shorebirds spend the most time in our state and when birders spend the most time looking for them. Unfortunately, only Region 5, and to a lesser degree Region 1, had a good season. Highlights in Region 5 were Willet, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes, and Marbled Godwit. After the strong spring showing, Wilson's Phalarope showed up in five Regions. There was a possible state record count of Solitary Sandpipers in Region 1. Very rare were a Ruff, nearly annual in Region 10, and Am. Avocet in four Regions (1, 3, 9, and 10), the latter perhaps becoming more frequent.

Miscellaneous nonbreeding bird notes included some special pelagic species in Region 10 which regrettably will not be reported to the NYSARC; 171 Red-tailed Hawks doing their annual reverse migration along Lake Ontario in Region 2; a one-footed Black-headed Gull persisting (for how many years?) in Region 10; Little Gulls found in Regions 1, 2, 6, and 7; and an excellent Common Nighthawk migration in several Regions, though they are still in trouble as a breeding species in the state.

The real news of importance in the summer season, of course, involves our breeding birds. It is when we can get our best estimates on how various species are doing. Special efforts were made on a number of groups and individual species. Studies showed decreases in Double-crested Cormorant in Regions 6 and 7 and a slight increase in Region 1. The potential damage that cormorants can cause to their nest habitat, negatively affecting other species and themselves, was noted in Regions 1, 7, and 9. DEC personnel are working to control their population in Region 6 and are considering similar efforts in Region 1. Expanding in Region 10, cormorants there may be scouting for potentially new colonies. Grassland species are receiving more attention. Surveys found more than expected Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows in some Regions. This group of birds was found using landfill caps, specially managed for them, in Regions 1 and 5, and military bases in Regions 6, 7, and 8. Impressive counts of Grasshopper Sparrow were made in Region 10.

Cerulean Warblers were the focus of a Cornell Lab study carried out in several Regions, with some impressive counts in Regions 3, 5, & 7 and previously unknown breeding locations found. Details of this study reportedly will be published in a future issue of *The Kingbird*. Bog-sloggers in Regions 6 and 7 noted a veritable explosion of "Yellow" Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*). During the Atlas only one confirmed and one probable breeding records were found in just one block. This year 28 singing males were counted in Region 6 and about 10 in Region 7! It should be noted, however, that some of these areas were inaccessible during the Atlas project.

There were many other breeding notes of interest. Great Egret nested for the third straight year in Region 1, the only non-coastal site in the state. The Region 6 Trumpeter Swans, products of some (re?)-introduction program, raised seven cygnets. The pair was aggressive toward Mute Swans and kept them out of their territory. An impressive count of 1280 Wood Ducks in Region 5 shows they continue to prosper. Red-breasted Merganser made a failed nesting attempt in Region 7. Faring better were Am. Wigeon in Region 1, Ring-necked Duck in Region 6, and Common Goldeneye in Region 7.

Osprey and Peregrine Falcon had generally positive nesting seasons. Bald Eagle nested along the Hudson River for the first time in this century. Merlins are consolidating their foothold in the state, with several breeding pairs in the Adirondacks. Broad-winged Hawk was not on my list of possible future breeding species in New York City. They not only tried there but were

successful in the borough of Staten Island, RICH! Also adapting to New York City environs, this time in the middle of Mahattan on apartment buildings bordering Central Park, two pairs of Red-tailed Hawks successfully brought off young. N. Goshawk was found in six Regions, an improvement. King Rail was found in Regions 2 & 9, confirmed breeding in the latter. Sandhill Crane continued in an inaccessible site in Region 2, but breeding remained unconfirmed. Wilson's Phalarope nested again in the Region 7 pasture. Common Terns were hurt by high water levels in Region 6. Short-eared Owls, confirmed breeding in Region 6, were also found in Regions 2 & 7. N. Saw-whet Owls were found away from the Adirondacks in Regions 3 & 4. Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will continue to fare poorly as breeders in New York.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were in record numbers for Region 4 and expanding in the northernmost part of Region 7. House Wren and Yellow Warbler in Region 5 and Prairie Warbler in Region 1 had late nestings. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrids seem to be easier to find nowadays. "Lawrence's Warbler" was reported in Regions 1, 2 & 5. Two male Yellow-throated Warblers continued in Region 9 with no further evidence of breeding. Bay-breasted and Wilson's warblers in Region 7 are both very rare breeders. Yellow-breasted Chats were found in Regions 1, 8, 9, and, most improbably, in Region 6.

Clay-colored Sparrows may be on the increase. They were found in Regions 1 and 8 and at an impressive five sites in Region 6. Red Crossbills probably bred in Regions 1 & 7.

Winter finches dropped hints of things to come in the fall. Red Crossbills were found in Regions 1, 3, 5, 6, & 7. White-winged Crossbills were in Regions 7, 8, & 9. Pine Siskin was found in Regions 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, & even 10. Evening Grosbeaks were in Regions 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9.

The best of the many rarities, by Region, were: Region 1 - two Eared Grebes, the first acceptable Regional summer record, Am. White Pelican, and Lesser Black-backed Gull; Region 2 - White-winged Tern found by the same person in the same site as in 1991 (!) and Lark Sparrow; Region 3 - Cattle Egret, Sandhill Crane eating from a bird feeder (!), and White-eyed Vireo; Region 5 - Am. White Pelican; Region 6 - first Regional Black Vulture and Fish Crow and the second Regional Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, very out of season; Region 7 - Swainson's Hawk; Region 8 - Glossy Ibis and Barn Owl; Region 9 - Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow; and Region 10 - Leach's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (first state record, if reported to NYSARC and accepted by that body), Long-tailed Jaeger, Yellow-throated Warbler, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, and Eurasian Collared Dove (another state first if origin is considered "wild"). This latter species has probably spread to the U.S. from the Bahamas, where it was introduced (Smith, 1987). Eurasian Collared-Doves have shown an impressive ability to expand in Europe and have been documented in several

states in just the past couple of years. Brace yourselves for another alien invasion. My choice for Bird of the Season is the well documented Lewis' Woodpecker in Region 4, only the second ever for the state. This record was already detailed in the previous issue of *The Kingbird* (Crumb and Cesari, 1997).

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Standard abbreviations: Regional rarities appear in *bold italics*; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. — American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CBC — Christmas Bird Count; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. — Common; E. — Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. — Northern; NYSDEC — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; W. — Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The unusually cold, wet spring quickly turned into a distinctly average June. At Buffalo the temperature was less than a degree below normal and precipitation just 1/2 inch under the average. July was dry and quite pleasant. Precipitation was 1.23 inches below normal and the temperature averaged 2.5 degrees below normal. August started dry also, prompting mild concern about drought. Those worries were washed away, however, by above average rains the rest of the month. The final precipitation total was 1/2 inch above normal and the temperature 2.2 degrees below normal. All the data just given were for Buffalo. In contrast, at Amity Lake in Allegany County, well inland from Lake Erie, June rains totaled nearly twice normal and July was described as "oppressive" (VP). Obviously, inland climate can differ markedly from the "air-conditioned" regions near the Great Lakes, where thunderstorms are often suppressed by lake breezes.

Once again the Batavia Sewage Lagoons continued to attract both birds and birders. There were a number of unusual ducks and other birds reported there, which is beginning to seem like the norm for this locale. Reports of up to five N. Shovelers and 11 Ruddy Ducks in June and July did not include evidence of breeding. However, two adult Green-winged Teal with three young probably nested nearby. Two Ring-necked Ducks, two Lesser Scaup, and one Greater Scaup rounded out the list of rare summer ducks. Two Red-necked Phalaropes and two Eared Grebes, the first Regional summer record for the latter, added spice.

Shorebird habitat was nowhere outstanding, but it was at least pretty good at the Batavia Sewage Lagoons, the Countryside Sand and Gravel Pits in CATT, Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary in CHAU, and, briefly, at Iroquois NWR. Despite the distance from major population centers, coverage at the first two sites was good, indicative of area birders' strong desire to see these long distance travelers. Among the highlights of this group was a possible state record count for Solitary Sandpiper.

It is always difficult to broadly characterize the breeding season. However, the weather, being neither overly hot nor too wet, probably did not hurt the chances of successfully raising a brood. We do have a few species at a few specific sites to consider. Two pairs of Peregrine Falcon attempted to nest very near each other in downtown Buffalo. The female of one pair was slightly injured when knocked to the ground by the other pair. Her lone egg was later found smashed on the street below. The remaining pair, which successfully raised three young last year, possibly lost their eggs in a thunderstorm - they had chosen a rooftop gutter to nest in - though none of their four eggs or even

fragments were ever found. If rain did wash them away, then there's one strike against my benign weather idea. Osprey did well at Allegheny Reservoir with five of six pairs fledging a total of nine young, slightly above average. At Iroquois NWR, a hacking site for the species in recent years, two nests were built though breeding was not attempted. If they follow through next year, this would be the area's second "modern" site. Bald Eagle had mixed results. The Cattaraugus Indian Reservation site failed with the lone chick found dead under the nest. The Allegheny Reservoir site successfully fledged one young. When one of two nestlings died at the Iroquois NWR site, the DEC substituted two young from Maryland. All three successfully fledged. A N. Goshawk nest with one young in Wyoming County is believed to be the first for that county in the Region.

Grassland species are of concern. The embattled Henslow's Sparrow, now extirpated in the adjacent Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, was found at a new site in the Region by DEC personnel - the Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area in WYOM. They also located three singing Grasshopper Sparrows using the BFI Landfill cap in Niagara Falls! This site is specifically managed for grassland species by BFI and apparently produces numbers of Savannah Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks as well (KR).

Fledged young of Red Crossbill were found at three locations in ALLE and CATT. Though this does not prove breeding in the vicinity for this nomadic species, earlier sightings in spring and early summer at these locations strongly suggest it.

Rarities not already mentioned include **Am. White Pelican**, Snowy Egret, **Am. Avocet**, Red-necked Phalarope, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole.

Contributors: Robert Andrle, William Broderick, Elizabeth Brooks, Doris Burton, Al Cala, Bruce Chilton, John Curtis, Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis, Steve Eaton, Kurt Fox, Walt Franklin, Dave Gagne, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Marie Johnson, Tom Jurczak, Brian Lewandowski, Alice McKale, Michael Morgante, Catherine Mueller, Patrick O'Donnell, Susan & Thomas O'Donnell, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Ken Robley, Chuck Rosenberg, Olga Rosche, Bert Schweigert, Gail Seamans, Steve Soule, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Debra Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill (weather data), Michael Turisk, Kirk Vanstrom, William Watson, Jim Wojewodski, Peter Yoerg

Abbreviations: All. Res.-Allegheny Reservoir CATT; BSL-Batavia Sewage Lagoons GENE; Buffalo RBA - Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; Burgeson WS-Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary, Town of Kiantone CHAU; CHMUA-Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area Town of Middlebury WYOM; CSG-Countryside Sand & Gravel Pits, Town Dayton CATT; NF-Niagara Falls; NR-Niagara River; Tifft NP-Tifft Nature Preserve Buffalo; WG-Williamsville Glen Town of Amherst ERIE.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: Horned Grebe: T Wilson 24 Aug (WD), very early. **EARED GREBE:** two BSL 31 Aug (GS!,GR), first acceptable summer record. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** Strawberry I - NR 5 Jun (WW!), holdover from spring. **Double-crested Cormorant:** now nesting Motor I (18 nests) & Strawberry I (31 nests) - NR in addition to Buffalo Harbor (46 nests); max 833 Buckhorn I SP - NR 25 Aug. **Least Bittern:** Tillman WMA ERIE 1 Jun, new location, only report. **Great Egret:** four nests fledged y Motor I - NR; 15 Iroquois NWR complex 12 Aug; six BSL 31 Aug; only locations. **SNOWY EGRET:** Motor I - NR 2,23,25 Jun (WW!), several reports recent years near the Motor I heronry. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Mayville L Chautauqua CHAU 3 Jun; Bemus Point L Chautauqua CHAU 27 Aug; rare away from NR. **Tundra Swan:** All. Res. 17 Jun (WW!), very rare in summer. **Green-winged Teal:** two ad + 3 y BSL 26 Jul (MM), rare breeder; first migrants two Oak Orchard WMA 15 Aug. **Am. Black Duck:** max 18 BSL 14 Aug. **N. Pintail:** two Iroquois NWR 19,30 Jul, only report. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 66 BSL 31 Aug. **N. Shoveler:** Tonawanda WMA 7 Jun; BSL 7 Jun thru; max 66 BSL 31 Aug. **Gadwall:** three BSL 7 Jun, only report. **Am. Wigeon:** nest + 10 eggs Buckhorn I SP 10 Jun (WW); 2 ad + 12 y Motor I - NR 28 Jul; perhaps regular breeder on NR. **Redhead:** arr BSL 26 Aug. **Ring-necked Duck:** 1-2 BSL 7 Jun thru (mob), second straight summer here. **Greater Scaup:** male BSL 6 Jul thru (mob), rare in summer. **Lesser Scaup:** five BSL 7 Jun; 1-3 BSL 27 Jun thru, rare in summer. **White-winged Scoter:** NF - NR 27 Jun (WW!), very rare in summer. **Com. Merganser:** 4-5 Niagara Falls - NR 27 Jun, 7 Jul, nonbreeding; two Wellsville ALLE 13 Jun; 12 Scio ALLE 24 Aug; only reports. **Red-breasted Merganser:** 13 Woodlawn Beach SP 25 Aug, unusual. **Ruddy Duck:** up to 17 BSL entire season, still no breeding evidence there.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: six nests All. Res.; two nests Iroquois NWR but no eggs or y, *intro*; summer sightings other locations increasing. **Bald Eagle:** All. Res. & Iroquois NWR sites successful, Cattaraugus Indian Reservation site failed, *intro*; ad Attica Res. WYOM 27 Jul & 9 Aug, only report away from nest sites. **N. Goshawk:** nest with one y T Pike, only report. **Virginia Rail:** Springville ERIE mid-Jul, where unknown as breeder; T Machias 23 Aug, rare in CATT. **Black-bellied Plover:** last CSG 7 Jun; arr T Dayton 17 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 4 T Royalton 24 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** last three Tonawanda WMA 1 Jun; arr T Dayton 20 Jul. **AM. AVOCET:** Woodlawn Beach SP 27 Aug (WW!,MM!), very rare. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr BSL 10 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr three 6 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr T Amherst & five Iroquois NWR 19 Jul; possible state record max 33 Burgeson WS CATT 2 Aug (WD); 12 All. Res. 16 Aug, high count. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max 50 BSL 26 Jul, high count. **Upland Sandpiper:** T Centerville 5 Jul, very uncommon ALLE; three NF airport where not reported for a few years. **Ruddy Turnstone:**

Burgeson WS 2 Aug, only report. **Sanderling**: 1,2 BSL 16,26 Aug, perhaps regular here, only report away from Lake Erie. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: last 35 BSL 7 Jun; arr two T Java 24 Jul. **Least Sandpiper**: arr Goat I - NR 27 Jun; 40 BSL 14 Aug; 51 All. Res. 16 Aug, high counts. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: All. Res 16 Aug (BS); CSG 30 Aug (BS); two CATT sightings is exceptional. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr two CSG 27 Jul. **Dunlin**: last five Tonawanda WMA 1 Jun; arr T Villanova mid-Aug, early. **Stilt Sandpiper**: BSL 10 Aug, only report. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr Burgeson WS NWR 17 Jul; 12 BSL 15 Aug; two CSG 17,30 Aug, very uncommon inland but perhaps regular at these sites. **Com. Snipe**: nine T Dayton 30 Aug, high fall count. **Wilson's Phalarope**: Tonawanda WMA 1 Jun (PY,BH), last of a remarkable spring showing. **Red-necked Phalarope**: two BSL 14 Aug & one BSL 15,16 Aug (PO!,WW!,MM!), early and rare, but perhaps regular at this site. **Little Gull**: arr two Woodlawn Beach SP 27 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr away from NR two BSL 26 Jul. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: ad NF - NR 25 Aug (WW!), only third summer record, but second straight summer here. **Caspian Tern**: two Buffalo - NR 25 Jun, unusual date; several inland sightings 10 Jul thru; increasing. **Black Tern**: modest numbers breeding Iroquois NWR complex; BSL 16 Aug, only other report.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: arr spring T Dayton 8 Jun, very late. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr T Amity 6 Jun, late. **Com. Nighthawk**: T Chautauqua, T Wheatfield, T Tonawanda, T Perrysburg Jun & Jul, more than usual for recent summers; 201, 250 high over Jamestown CHAU 26,28 Aug (KV), high count.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: Tonawanda Indian Reservation 2 Jun, last of only three spring reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: last T Tonawanda 4 Jun. **Acadian Flycatcher**: CHMUA 5 Jul, new location. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: 33 T Eden 3 Aug, high inland count. **Bank Swallow**: 300 BSL 26 Aug, high inland count. **Cliff Swallow**: T Cheektowaga 28 Jun, unusual location. **Com. Raven**: two T Poland 14 Aug (AC), one of few CHAU records. **Carolina Wren**: T Wilson 22 Jun; Woodlawn Beach SP 25,29 Aug; Greenwood ALLE 4 Aug; new locations. **Marsh Wren**: T Machias 20 Jul (BS), rare in southern tier. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: new nesting locales T Hamburg & T Farmersville; three WG 29 Aug (PY), migrants? **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: Tift NP 1 Jun (PY!,BH), late. **Gray-checked Thrush**: last two Tift NP 1 Jun. **Swainson's Thrush**: last T Tonawanda 2 Jun; T Alfred 3 Aug (EB), probably early migrant. **Hermit Thrush**: CHMUA 5 Jul, northernmost site in Region.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Yellow-throated Vireo**: T Alexander 22 Aug, very uncommon WYOM. **Warbling Vireo**: 12 Burgeson WS 28 Aug (DG), high count. **Philadelphia Vireo**: last Tift NP 1 Jun; arr WG 29 Aug. "Lawrence's"

Warbler: Tonawanda Indian Reservation 2,27 Jun (SS,PY!), second straight year here; male Allegany SP 5,15 Jun (WW!,PY!), fifth straight year here. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr T Eden 24 Aug. **N. Parula:** Allegany SP 15 Jun, known nesting site; T South Valley 12 Jul (WD!,DG), new location. **Magnolia Warbler:** CHMUA 27 Jul, northernmost site in Region. **Cape May Warbler:** banded T Alfred 11 Aug (EB), early. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** CHMUA 27 Jul, northernmost site in Region. **Pine Warbler:** two Bush Hill State Forest CATT thru Jun, adults carrying food 25 Jun (BC!), continues here; Derby on Lake Erie ERIE 8 Jun (MD!), unusual location. **Prairie Warbler:** several reports ALLE & CATT, doing well; nestlings T Amity 7 Aug (VP,EB), **state record late.** **Bay-breasted Warbler:** last Tiff NP 1 Jun; arr two WG 29 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler:** last 1 Jun three locations ERIE & NIAG; arr Goat I NF 31 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** two T Alexander 29 Jun, new location. **Connecticut Warbler:** Tiff NP 1 Jun (PY,BH), holdover from May. **Wilson's Warbler:** last Tiff NP 1 Jun; arr Fort Niagara SP 24 Aug. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** T Sheldon 20 Jun (AM), rare.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Clay-colored Sparrow:** two T Andover 11-31 Jul (EB!,MM!), very rare but occasional in ALLE. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** three BFI Landfill cap NF (KR,CR), wonderful!; more reports than usual. **Henslow's Sparrow:** T Amity & T Lockport, traditional sites; three Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM 22 Jul (KR,JC), new site. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** last three Tiff NP 1 Jun, late (PY,BH); arr Fort Niagara SP 30 Aug (BP!), early. **Orchard Oriole:** T Somerset 1,23 Jun, known site & only report. **Red Crossbill:** 1, 2 ad + 3 y T Ward 11 Jun,6 Jul (EB!); 15,3 Bush Hill State Forest CATT 17 Jun,19 Jul (BC!); 9, 2 ad + 4 y T West Almond 20,28 Jun (EB!); T Hamburg 6 Aug (AM!,MJ); most summer records in many years.

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GENESEE - REGION 2

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

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The summer season was not one of major trends or deviations from the norm. For the most part it was a pretty average season. June started things off with a continuation of the cool spring, but the usual hot, dry weather was soon

to follow. Precipitation was 1.94 in. The average for the month is 2.61 in. Plant growth may have been a bit behind schedule, but the birds seemed to be relatively unaffected by it. Reports from BBS routes seemed to indicate that things were pretty much on schedule.

July was dry but not overly warm. Precipitation was a little over one-half an inch below normal at 1.94 in. Temperatures were about average. Reported totals were down for the month, but breeding birds continued to be very active. The early migration was lackluster with few reports of moving nonbreeders.

August saw a change in the precipitation pattern with rainfall significantly above normal. Total precipitation reached 4.22 in. against a norm of 3.18 in. There were signs of migration but no real systems to produce major early flights. The species total for the month was the highest since the onset of the tracking system.

One of the big pluses for the season was the fact that Kurt Fox and Jim Kimball continued to log many field hours in and around Livingston County. Their records show some interesting numbers and concentrations as well as some noteworthy species. Kurt is in the process of documenting species' occurrence for that county. Other field work by area observers helped produce a seasonal total that was very respectable.

Bob Marcotte's surveying of Badgerow Park in Greece for August warblers was also helpful in documenting species for the season. Totals were similar to those of the '95 season when weather conditions were fairly similar. The lake-watch also began at Hamlin Beach late in the season and produced some early waterfowl observations.

The nesting season saw neither major trends nor unusual conditions to drive trends, but there were some interesting and noteworthy observations. Loons were once again reported from Lake Ontario. Pied-billed Grebe was reported as a nester in Murray, but other late spring sightings of this species failed to produce additional nesting reports in the Region.

Marsh birds seemed to have a difficult time. With the exception of American Bittern, which seems to be holding its own, waders were generally scarce. Least Bittern and Green Heron weren't well reported. The only exception to this was the surprising 30 Green Herons seen at Conesus Lake by Jim Kimball on 29 Aug. Marsh species in general were reported with less frequency. Rail and moorhen numbers were down. High water conditions may have contributed to this situation. The King Rail in Hamlin may well have bred, but there was no confirmation of this.

Nesting Mute Swans numbers continued to climb. In the Braddock Bay/Salmon Creek area four to five broods were present for much of the season. Two broods numbered six cygnets each. Canada Geese had a great season and could be found nesting in almost any little pond. The ponds along the Lake Ontario shore particularly produced a number of broods. The rest of the waterfowl was typical, such as the continued scarcity of Am. Black Duck and

Blue-winged Teal and the continued nesting success of Hooded Merganser at the Genesee Country Nature Center in Mumford.

Immature Bald Eagles were reported at Braddock Bay for most of the season. Up to three individuals were seen. On a continued decline were Ring-necked Pheasants. The stocking program at Beatty Point has produced a limited number of sightings there. Once again the Wild Turkey population seems to be expanding and growing.

The Sandhill Cranes which were sighted at Taylor Marsh in Richmond during May were reported again on 10 June. The area possesses suitable habitat for nesting, but is highly inaccessible to observers. The only viable option would be an aerial survey. This is the same location where three birds were seen in last November. Confirmed breeding may not be too far away.

Black Terns did not have a good year, with traditional areas like Buck Pond and Salmon Creek showing declines, while the Braddock Bay nesters seemed to do all right. A **White-winged Tern** was found by Sharon Skelly at Salmon Creek in Greece. It was the same location where the one in June of 1991 was seen and photographed. It remained in the area for only a very short time.

The Short-eared Owl pair in Lima which was being monitored by Kurt Fox apparently did not produce any young; at least none was seen. The downward trend for Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will continued, with no nesting reports from the Region.

The flycatcher picture, while somewhat typical, had a couple of interesting notes. Again Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in Letchworth State Park in mid June. This has happened before, but not even presence on multiple dates to indicate Probable breeding has ever been reported. Observers noted that Acadian Flycatcher numbers seemed to be lower than in recent years.

Common Raven was again reported in the higher elevations south of Rochester, but no breeding evidence of the level of Possible has yet been found for this Region..

Passerines in general seemed to be about normal. Winter Wrens were on the plus side, and the usual Hermit Thrushes were reported from the higher elevations. The number of Prairie Warblers in the Region was up, as was that of Hooded Warblers. Cerulean Warbler was also reported in one location at a higher elevation than usual. Scarlet Tanagers were noteworthy in their scarcity. Indigo Buntings seemed to have a banner year.

Vesper Sparrows held their own again this year. Thanks again to the efforts of Kurt Fox and Jim Kimball, good numbers of nesting Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows were found in the Livingston County area. An immature **Lark Sparrow**, discovered on 11 July in Lima by Anne Clarridge, was a great find for the season. Once again Orchard Orioles nested in the Genesee Arboretum, with that site joining Point Breeze as the only consistent nesting locations in the Region.

As usual there were some late spring migration reports and some early fall reports during the season. Glaucous Gull was reported during the first week of June; not unprecedented, but unusual. A Swainson's Thrush was at Northhampton Park on 11 June, and a Tennessee Warbler was seen in the Manitou area in June.

The early return migration often experienced in July was lacking in numbers. Habitat for shorebirds was poor, certainly contributing to a lack of these species. The water level was somewhat high at Ontario Beach, Charlotte, but some birds put in appearances. Bonaparte's Gull and Forster's Tern were also reported in July, and there were a number of Little Gull reports during the season. The August movement of warblers was nondescript, with just a trickle of individuals noted.

The early lakewatch at Hamlin Beach produced some August waterfowl reports of interest. These included both scaup, Surf and White-winged scoters and Red-breasted Merganser.

A Rough-legged Hawk, observed by Paul Spindler in the Town of Ontario, Wayne County, was very early. Evening Grosbeak reports in August were also quite interesting, especially in a year when there were few reports for the previous winter and the spring migration.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, CH - Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CL - Conesus Lake, G - Town of Greece, H - Town of Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, LW - Letchworth State Park, LI - Livingston County, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road (Avon), P - Town of Parma, WB - West Bloomfield, WL - West Lake Shore.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** three-four HB 14-22 Jun, typical; arr one BB 9 Jul. **Horned Grebe:** arr one HB 24 Aug. **Green Heron:** max 30+ CL 29 Aug (JK), very high total. **Greater Scaup:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** arr one BB 19 Aug. **Surf Scoter:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **White-winged Scoter:** arr four HB 19 Aug. **Com. Merganser:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr one HB 19 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Caneseraga State Forest 19 Jul, only report. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 171 BB 10 Aug. **Rough-legged Hawk:** one Ontario 13 Aug (PS), early. **Peregrine Falcon:** one P 16 Aug; one G 22 Aug. **KING RAIL:** one H 6 Jun (RO'H), same site as previous years. **Sandhill Crane:** one Williamson 1 Jun (MT), late and an unusual location; one-two Richmond 10 Jun (KF), **breeding?** **Black-bellied Plover:** arr one CH 16 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** arr one H 29 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr one CH 27 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr one CH 27 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr one CH 25 Jul; one Hamlin 25 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max 30+ Genesee River 13 Jul. **Whimbrel:** arr one CH 20 Aug. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr one CH 27 Jul. **Sanderling:** arr one Ch 19 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr one CH 19 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr one CH 1 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr two BB 8 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr one G 24 Jul. **Little Gull:** max two CH 9 Aug; one CH 16,19-20 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr one CH 19 Jul. **Glaucous Gull:** one Perinton 2,5,14 Jun, late. **Forster's Tern:** arr one BB 21 Jul. **WHITE-WINGED TERN:** one G (Salmon Creek) 29 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: **Short-eared Owl:** two Lima var Jun, 1,18 Jul (KF), nesting? **Com. Nighthawk:** one BB 22 Jul, only report.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one Island Cottage Woods 5 Jun, last; one LP 15 Jun (MD); arr one BP 9 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max ten M 6 Jun (RMc), banded; arr one M 25 Aug. **Com. Raven:** two Naples 9-11 Jun; one Wyoming 8 Aug. **Sedge Wren:** one Marten Tract, Wayne Co 30 Aug (R,S&CS), only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** one Portageville 20 Aug (AW), unusual date and location. **Swainson's Thrush:** one Northampton Park 11 Jun, last; arr one M 30 Jul.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr one BP 30 Aug. **"Lawrence's" Warbler:** one LW 14 Jun; one LW 5 Jul; one Rush 30 Aug. **Tennessee Warbler:** one M 7 Jun, last; arr one BP 12 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** arr one BB 24 Aug. **N. Parula:** one WB 19 Jun (AC), unusual location. **Cape May Warbler:** arr one M 8 Aug. **Prairie Warbler:** max three LW 14 Jun; one Springwater 14 Jul, new location. **Palm Warbler:** arr one M 31 Aug. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr one M 12 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr two M 24 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** one H.H. Spencer State Recreation Area 14 Jun, new location. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr one BP 19 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: **LARK SPARROW:** one Lima 11 Jul (AC), rare at any time in Region. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 10 NR 16 Jun (KF), single location; max 15 LI 16 Jun (KF), multiple locations. **Henslow's Sparrow:** max 10 WB 9 Jun (KF,JK), single location; max 14 LI 9 Jun (KF), multiple locations. **White-crowned Sparrow:** one M 15,26 Jun, recent trend to later

dates. **Orchard Oriole:** max six Geneseo 15 Jul. **Evening Grosbeak:** one M,BP 24,29 Aug (RO'H, RM). early and unusual in context of recent history.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

STEVE KELLING

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After one of the coolest springs on record, warm and dry weather prevailed over the summer of 1997 in the Finger Lakes Region. From June through August, temperatures were 3 degrees above average for June and August. Precipitation was normal for June, but below normal for July and August.

The 3rd consecutive Ithaca June Count was held on 17 June. The Ithaca June Count is held within the confines of the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count circle. This year, over 50 participants observed 124 species of birds and counted over 23,000 individuals. While the species total was slightly below previous years, the total number of individuals counted was higher than the past 2 years. Highlights included a late lingering Great Egret near Varna, an Acadian Flycatcher in the Hammond Hill section, and a Worm-eating Warbler near Brooktondale. The numbers of Acadian Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, and Prairie Warbler reports are increasing as these more southern breeders seem to be increasing, particularly in the southern sections of the Region.

This year an intensive survey was made of Cerulean Warbler in the Region. Ken Rosenberg, chief biologist at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, reports, "Intensive surveys for Cerulean Warblers were carried out by participants in the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project, funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. These efforts turned up an impressive 291 singing male Cerulean Warblers in the MNWR Complex and 45+ males along Salmon Creek in Lansing. Details of these populations will be published soon in *The Kingbird*."

Highlights included: Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, **Sandhill Crane**, American Avocet, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Sedge Wren, White-eyed Vireo, and Red Crossbill.

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Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake, CV - Chemung Valley, IJC - Ithaca June

Count, 14 June, a 24 hour count in the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count Circle, It - Ithaca, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MNWR Complex (The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have begun an ambitious project in purchasing land around the north end of Cayuga Lake. MNWR complex refers to these lands which are located around Savannah, north of Seneca Falls, and extending west to Howland's Island), MP - Myers Point, Lansing, GE - Geneva, QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh, Montour Falls.

LOONS-DUCKS

Common Loon: 1 MNWR 4 Jun; 6 GE 8 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: numerous MNWR.
Horned Grebe: 6 GE through 20 Jun; 2 GE entire period.
Red-necked Grebe: 1 GE entire period, possibly injured?
Double-crested Cormorant: 3 MP 18 Jun; 20 QCM 12 Aug; 3 EL 19 Aug; up to 150 MNWR by late Aug.
Am. Bittern: fairly numerous MNWR complex thru.
Least Bittern: 2 MNWR (Tsache Pool) 6 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: 50 IJC; scattered CV Aug.
Great Egret: 1 IJC; arr MNWR last week in July; 2 Kashong Pt SL 1 Aug; 1 EL 8 Aug.
Cattle Egret: 1 It 12 Aug (SD, m.ob).
Green Heron: 8 IJC, lowest count in 3 years; numerous MNWR complex; scattered EL Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: fairly numerous MNWR; 1 QCM 23 Aug.
Mute Swan: north end CL entire period.
Snow Goose: 1 MNWR entire period.
Canada Goose: 285 IJC; 212 CV 2 Aug.
Wood Duck: common through Region; 70 IJC; 35 QCM 20 Jul..
Green-winged Teal: arr MNWR mid Aug; 8 QCM 14 Aug.
Am. Black Duck: 1 QCM 21 Jul.
Mallard: 406 IJC.
Blue-winged Teal: bred MNWR.
N. Shoveler: 2 QCM 21 Aug.
Am. Wigeon: 2 GE thru; arr MNWR mid-Aug.
Canvasback: 2 GE thru.
Redhead: 2 GE 8 Jun.
Greater Scaup: 1 MNWR 6 Jun..
Lesser Scaup: 2 GE thru.
Bufflehead: 1 MNWR 6 Jun.; 3 GE thru.
Hooded Merganser: 11 IJC; 7 QCM 5 Jul.
Com. Merganser: 8 IJC; 25 Kashong Pt SL 27 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: 19 IJC; scattered through Region
Osprey: 3 MNWR 9 Jun; 1 Kashong Pt SL 9 Jun; 1 QCM 11 Jul; 4 reports CV late Aug.
Bald Eagle: 3 nests MNWR complex.
N. Harrier: scattered nesting throughout Region.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 IJC; 1 QCM 27 Aug, only reports.
Cooper's Hawk: 6 IJC; scattered WG area; 1 Gleason Mdws El 23 Aug.
N. Goshawk: 1 Hi Tor WMA, nest; 2 nests Connecticut Hill; uncommon local breeder.
Red-shouldered Hawk: local breeding in large forest tracts particularly in S part of Finger Lakes.
Broad-winged Hawk: local breeding in large forest tracts particularly in S part of Finger Lakes.
Am. Kestrel: 6 IJC; 3 Kelly Hill CV 21 Aug.
Merlin: 1 QCM 26 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 MNWR 17 Aug.
Ruffed Grouse: 6 IJC; 1 EL 6 Jun; numbers seem low.
Wild Turkey: 10 IJC; scattered through Region.
Virginia Rail: common MNWR complex; 3 QCM 27 Jul.
Sora: local MNWR complex; 1 QCM 27 Jul.
Com. Moorhen: fairly common MNWR complex; 6 QCM 3 Aug.
Am. Coot: 1 MNWR late Aug.
SANDHILL CRANE: 1 between Canandaigua and Clifton Springs 4-27 Jun (mob), often seen eating at a bird feeder; 1 Turk Rd GE 5 Jun (G.Acquilano).
Black-bellied Plover: 1 QCM 31 Aug, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: 1 QCM 27 Jul; 20 MNWR 20 Aug.
AM. AVOCET: 1 Stewart Park It 24 Jul (SK,SD,mob).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 MP 3 Jun; 2 EL 2 Aug; 1 QCM 3 Aug; 9 MNWR 14 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 QCM 17 Jul; 83 MNWR 20 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 1 QCM 13 Jul; 9 MNWR 30 Jul.
Spotted Sandpiper: 7 IJC; 5 MNWR 23 Jul; 8 EL 2 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 1 Caroline 3 Jun; 8 Seneca Falls June; 2 Freeville 8 Jun.
Ruddy Turnstone: 1 GE 1 Jun; 1 Canandaigua 1 Jun; 1 MP 3-4 Jun; 1 MNWR 31 Aug.
Sanderling: 2 Stewart Park 21 Jun; 3 MNWR 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 QCM 2 Aug; 1 EL 10 Aug; 32 MNWR 20 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: 50 MNWR complex 6 Jul; 1 QCM 17 Jul; 1 EL 3 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 MNWR 20 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: 1 SP 23 Jul; 2 QCM 3 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 MNWR 30 Jul; 1 QCM 2 Aug; 60 MNWR 20 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: 1 MNWR complex 15 Jul; 4 MNWR 20 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 MNWR complex 15 Jul; 15 MNWR 28 Aug; 30 QCM 26 Aug.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 3 MNWR 28 Aug.
Com. Snipe: 1 QCM 27 Jul; 7 MNWR 20 Aug;
Am. Woodcock: scattered through Region.
Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR 20 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 GE 8 Jun; 1 IT 12 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: numbers peaking mid-Aug.
Herring Gull: numbers peaking mid-Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: scattered reports of immature birds.
Caspian Tern: first fall returns 4 Jul; max 40 IT 15 Aug.
Com. Tern: 1 EL 26 Aug.
Forster's Tern: 1 SP 15 Jul.
Black Tern: 8 MNWR thru; scattered migrants end of period.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 WG 3 Jun; 1 West Danby 10 Jun; noct migrants IT mid Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 West Danby 3 Jun; 1 IJC; only reports.
E. Screech-Owl: scattered through Region.
Great Horned Owl: scattered through Region.
Barred Owl: scattered through Region.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Danby 20 Jun, calling.
Com. Nighthawk: max 100 EL 26 Aug.
Chimney Swift: 105 IJC.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 38 IJC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: scattered reports Cayuga Lake Basin thru.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 40 IJC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: 4 nesting pairs Salmon Creek area; 1 Hammond Hill 14 Jun; 1 Arnot Forest 11 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: 79 IJC.
Willow Flycatcher: 89 IJC.
Least Flycatcher: 49 IJC.
E. Phoebe: 143 IJC.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 99 IJC.
E. Kingbird: 53 IJC.
Purple Martin: numerous MNWR late Aug.
Tree Swallow: large concentrations MNWR late Aug.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: numerous through Region.
Bank Swallow: numerous through Region.
Cliff Swallow: scattered colonies through Region.
Barn Swallow: large concentrations MNWR late Aug.
Fish Crow: nested Stewart Park Ithaca.
Com. Raven: numerous reports southern Finger Lakes Region.
Black-capped Chickadee: 475 IJC.
Tufted Titmouse: 101 IJC.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 11 IJC, low; scattered reports southern Finger Lakes Region.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 52 IJC.
Brown Creeper: 30 IJC.
Carolina Wren: 4 IJC; 1 GE 8 Jun, only reports.
House Wren: 335 IJC.
Winter Wren: 3 IJC; 1 WG 12 Jun, only reports.
Sedge Wren: 3 Kings Ferry 1 Jun (CH!), thru June, probable nesting.
Marsh Wren: numerous MNWR complex; 5 QCM 20 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 23 IJC; scattered MNWR complex.
E. Bluebird: 36 IJC.
Veery: 361 IJC, high; numerous WG.
Hermit Thrush: 292 IJC, high; numerous WG.
Wood Thrush: 292 IJC; numerous WG.
Am. Robin: 1441 IJC, high; numerous CV.
Gray Catbird: 590 IJC; numerous CV.
N. Mockingbird: 11 IJC, only report.
Brown Thrasher: 18 IJC.
Am. Pipit: arr MNWR 30 Sep.
Cedar Waxwing: 302 IJC; scattered CV.
European Starling: 1980 IJC; 5000 EL 17 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: 1 Sapsucker Woods 19 Jun (KM, mob).
Solitary Vireo: 35 IJC; 1 Tanglewood CV 1 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: numerous MNWR complex; 12 IJC; 1 QCM 2 Jul.
Warbling Vireo: 69 IJC; numerous MNWR complex.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Sapsucker Woods 26 Aug.
Red-eyed Vireo: 508 IJC.
Blue-winged Warbler: 64 IJC; 1 Kiner Hill CV 6 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: 1 IJC; 1 Sapsucker Woods 29 Jul.
Yellow Warbler: 776 IJC.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 105 IJC.
Magnolia Warbler: 18 IJC.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 25 IJC; 2 Arnot Forest 11 Jul.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 40 IJC; 2 Sullivanville Dam 2 Aug.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 35 IJC.
Blackburnian Warbler: 26 IJC.
Pine Warbler: 5 IJC; 1 WG State Park.
Prairie Warbler: 2 IJC; 10 Caroline 12 Jun; 3 Gleason Meadows CV 30 Jul.
Cerulean Warbler: 241 MNWR complex.
Black-and-white Warbler: 22 IJC.
Am. Redstart: 162 IJC.
Prothonotary Warbler: nested Armitage Rd MNWR.
Worm-eating Warbler: 1 IJC; several West Danby June.
Ovenbird: 387 IJC.
N. Waterthrush: 17 IJC.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 13 IJC; 3 locations WG State Park.
Mourning Warbler: 27 IJC, record high count.

Com. Yellowthroat: 606 IJC.
Hooded Warbler: 15 IJC.
Canada Warbler: 32 IJC, record high count.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 65 IJC; scattered CV.
N. Cardinal: 305 IJC.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 73 IJC.
Indigo Bunting: 146 IJC.
E. Towhee: 110 IJC; numerous CV.
Chipping Sparrow: 363 IJC.
Field Sparrow: 68 IJC; 10 Gleason Mdws. CV 23 Aug.
Vesper Sparrow: 3 IJC.
Savannah Sparrow: 251 IJC; 14 Sullivanville 2 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 17 IJC.
Henslow's Sparrow: 2 Kings Ferry 8 Jun.
Song Sparrow: 1070 IJC.
Swamp Sparrow: 91 IJC; numerous MNWR complex
White-throated Sparrow: 2 IJC; 3 Tanglewood CV 17 Aug.
Dark-eyed Junco: 200 IJC; scattered CV.
Bobolink: 280 IJC; throughout Aug QCM.
Red-winged Blackbird: 1460 IJC.
E. Meadowlark: 102 IJC; 5 Holding Pt. CV 30 Jul.
Com. Grackle: 561 IJC; 2500 Gleason Mdws 29 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 434 IJC.
Orchard Oriole: 1 Hanley Preserve near GE 15 Jun.
Baltimore Oriole: 194 IJC.
Purple Finch: 20 IJC.
House Finch: 199 IJC, record low count.
Red Crossbill: 1 Chemung 31 Jul.
Pine Siskin: 1 Dryden 9 Aug.
Am. Goldfinch: 604 IJC.
House Sparrow: 560 IJC.

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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If it hadn't been so dry, this summer's weather would have been ideal. Days were mostly sunny and temperatures were only slightly above average. Harold Hollis, National Weather Service observer at Cooperstown, reported that the average daily temperature in June was 64.3°F, one degree warmer than normal, while readings July and August were each a fraction below normal. June was the driest month. Only 1.93 inches of rain was recorded for the month, compared to the normal 4.21 inches. Precipitation in July was 1.51 inches below normal, while August rainfall was just a fraction under average. However, not a drop of rain fell 1 Aug to 11 Aug, the longest dry spell of the season. What rain we had usually came as a brief shower, occasionally heavy, instead of the soaking rain hoped for. The dry summer would not have been such a problem if it had not followed scant winter snows and a dry spring. Most creeks and small ponds dried up, and water levels of rivers plummeted. Exposed shore lines looked good for shorebird migration, but few birds were reported. Some crops flourished in the sunshine, others withered. Most berries were late ripening. Black Cherry trees, a favorite late summer haunt of many birds, bore little fruit. Mosquitoes were among insects that didn't fare well in the dry summer. One suspects this cut the available food supply for parents trying to feed young birds. As the summer progressed, birds must have experienced difficulty finding water and adequate food sources. It would help explain their scarcity in previously good territories.

It was still an interesting summer with much bird activity and indications of breeding for many, notably hawks. A pair of Northern Goshawk was reported nesting at BROO State Forest in Sanford through June. A record number of Red-shouldered Hawks was sighted, with breeding indicated in CHEN and possibly in BROO. Broad-winged Hawk at Triangle, BROO, through July was unusual. Finally, 28 American Kestrels fledged from nine nesting attempts in the 10-year-old CORT Nest Box Program. Bill Toner, compiler, reported they just missed the record of 29 young tallied last year. The CORT program was also rewarded with new record high numbers of Tree Swallow fledglings (170) and Eastern Bluebird fledglings (31). The latter two surveys date back to 1981. Seven Breeding Bird Surveys were reported, one less than usual, a fact considered when comparisons with other years were noted in the field notes.

Lewis' Woodpecker was the most exciting bird of the season. It was at a feeder in Richfield Springs OTSE 10 to 20 June, but unfortunately few birders got to see it. The homeowner didn't know whom to contact. Consequently, it wasn't until the morning of 20 June that Steve Hall arrived from Ilion to verify the identification, and David Cesari drove in from Rome to photograph the bird

(NYSARC). The woodpecker departed the area shortly thereafter, just ahead of birders flocking in from around the state. The sighting was only the second known report of this western woodpecker in New York State [*Kingbird* 47(3):182]. Also rare this season was the first known Regional summer report of Caspian Tern.

It was a record year for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Good to excellent counts were recorded for owls, Red-headed Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler in June, Prairie Warbler, and Purple Finch. Some threatened species, such as thrushes and grassland sparrows, seemed to at least hold their own. On the flip side was the absence of Common Loon and the scarcity of Osprey, Killdeer, both cuckoo species, Winter Wren, House Wren, Veery, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, many of the wood warblers, and Scarlet Tanager. A very early departure date of 26 Jul was noted for Bobolink.

There was little indication of early Fall migration. Gail Kirch, Vestal banded reported, "August birding was very bad for me." John Fritz had an excellent birding day 11 Aug at Morris, chalking up 42 species, and Marie Petuh had good lists for BROO and TIOG on several Aug dates. However, most of the birds would be considered "local" for the season.

Observers: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Peg Burnett, Laura Carter, David Cesari, John Davis, Richard DeRosa, Mary Dobinsky, John Fritz, Bob Grosek, Steve Hall, Elva Hawken (McDonough BBS), Sara Kinch, Gail Kirch, James Kurkowski, Margaret Layton, Andy Mason (Oneonta BBS), Bob Miller (Milford BBS), Richard Pancoe, Robert Pantle (Lisle BBS and Whitney Point BBS), Marie Petuh, Tom Salo (Laurens BBS), Julie Smith, Eric Sullivan (Corbettsville BBS), Tom and Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Chris Vredenburg, Don Weber, Weed Walkers of BNC, Nancy Weissflog, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: Bpd - Boland Pond, BROO. BrPd - Brick Pond, TIOG. BNC - Broome Naturalists Club. BSF - BROO State Forest, Sanford. CSF - ChEN State Forest, Afton. EHRd - Edwards Hill Road, T Lisle BROO. FMHW - Franklin Mt. Hawk Watch GL - Goodyear Lake, OTSE. LPd - Long Pond, CHEN. JC - Johnson City. OtsL - Otsego Lake. UL - Upper Lisle BROO. WB - West Burlington OTSE.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Pied-billed Grebe:** singles BROO 12 Jun, 30 Jul, missed some years. **Double-crested Cormorant:** three widespread reports max two after 24 Aug, average. **Great Blue Heron:** max seven Milford BBS; six BrPd 9 Aug, no breeding reports. **Great Egret:** three BROO sites 9 - 19 Aug.; two Bainbridge 26 Aug, fewer than recent years. **Green Heron:** max three at two BROO sites 15, 31 Aug.; Triangle, GL, Vestal most days Jul, good counts. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** BrPd 31 Aug (C&JB), not seen every year. **Canada Goose:** many with young. **Wood Duck:** max 30 (six ad with 22 y) Bpd 13 Jul; 30 mostly imm OTSE wetland 18-23 Aug. **Am. Black Duck:** two Bpd

28 Jun, only report. **Mallard**: scarce. **Hooded Merganser**: two females Burlington Flats 3 Jun (NW); GL often 12-31 Jul (IW), often missed. **Com. Merganser**: f with eight y Canasawacta Creek Norwich 22 Jun (DW); two CBBS; 65 Susquehanna R JC 10 Aug (MP), high counts.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: max 60 GL 26 Aug; 50 there 8 Jun, 15 & 20 Jul (IW), best summer yet for the site. **Osprey**: ORES; arr GL 8 Aug; Endwell 15 Aug, scarce. **Bald Eagle**: n OtsL 20 Jun; BROO 10 Jul; UL 15 Aug.; TIOG; average. **N. Harrier**: UL 10 Jun; Lisle 2 Jul; WB 2 Jul & 30 Aug.; max three Milford 31 Aug. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: five reports each month, high count. Cooper's Hawk: three reports Jun max two; six widespread singles after 10 Aug, good count. **N. Goshawk**: pair nesting BSF Jun (DEC Forester Richard Pencoe *fide* ES), only fifth nesting report since 1981. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: four CSF 6 Jun; imm FMHW 15 Jun; Triangle 9, 30 Jun and thru Jul; WPBBS; Maine 21 Jul; LPd 5 Jul; three Morris 11 Aug; max five Preston 8, 9 Aug, "looked like three imm and two ad, possibly a family. The closest I have found Red-Shouldered nests is about four miles away." (EH). **Broad-winged Hawk**: Triangle all of Jul (T&NT), breeding possible; arr OTSE 18 Aug, scarce. **Red-tailed Hawk**: generally scarce. **Rough-legged Hawk**: imm "perched near the road" T Exeter, OTSE 24 Aug (T&JS), record early arrival. **Am. Kestrel**: 28 y fledged from nine nesting attempts CORT Nest Box program, second best record. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: singles BROO, CHEN, only reports. **Ruffed Grouse**: hen with four y CSF 7 Jun (ES); on three BBS; high counts Aug, max six. **Wild Turkey**: hen with five y BROO 23 Jul; hen on nest with eggs TIOG Aug, late. **Killdeer**: max 27 on six BBS, generally scarce. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max two at two BROO sites 19 Aug (MP). **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr BROO 19 Jul; one TIOG, scarce. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max five Susquehanna R JC, 13 Aug; four Endwell 25 Jul (MP); "Chenango R all summer" (DW); two GL all AUG (IW), high count. **Upland Sandpiper**: singles two sites "about half mile apart" Edwards Hill Rd. area BROO 9, 10 Jun (ES); same site 15 Jun (PB); confirmed nesting there 1991. **Least Sandpiper**: Portlandville 5 Aug, only report. **Com. Snipe**: TIOG, only report. **Am. Woodcock**: "more than recent years" (TS). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 14 Aug "on a log with Ring-billed Gulls (MP), first summer since 1987. **CASPIAN TERN**: two BRPd 30 Aug (C&JB), first known summer report.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove**: max 106 on six BBS, high count. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: two on CBBS, only report. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: two WB 9 Jun; LPd 5 Jul, scarce. **E. Screech-Owl**: five y JC 11 Jun (EP); four widespread reports Aug, high count. **Great Horned Owl**: two LBBS Stamford 7 Jun; three reports Aug, good count. **Barred Owl**: max "two calling back and forth" Windsor 14 Jun (BNC); Stamford 7 Jun (AM): two often CHEN Aug (EH), good numbers. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: WB 12 Aug (TS), rare in

summer. **Com. Nighthawk**: several reports max four JC thru mid Jul; migration max 30 Binghamton & 10 WB 24 Aug; 15 Oneonta 12 Aug; 12 Vestal 27 Aug, better than recent years. **Chimney Swift**: max 12 WPtBBS, fewer reports than last two years. **Belted Kingfisher**: max 10 CHEN 19 & 30 Jul. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: at two Cooperstown area feeders about two miles apart; pair 7 Jun (RDeR); single 8 and 9 Jun (JD), probably different birds. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: three BrPd 9 Aug.; two other reports, average. **LEWIS' WOODPECKER**: Richfield Springs feeder 10 - 20 Jun (JK, DC,SH,NYSARC), only second known N. Y. State report. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 14 on five BBS. **Pileated Woodpecker**: seven reports Jun. average.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: **E. Wood-Pewee**: 16 on five BBS, generally scarce. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: max five LPd 5 Jul (EH); UL 12 Jun (MP); Triangle thru Jul (T&NT); banded Vestal 25 and 31 Aug (GK), best count in at least 18 years. **Alder Flycatcher**: max five Windsor 14 Jun (BNC) and Preston 15 Jun (EH); nine on four BBS, average. **Willow Flycatcher**: 11 on six BBS; only one Jul; none Aug; scarce. **Least Flycatcher**: 31 on seven BBS, average survey count, otherwise scarce. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: 23 on six BBS; pair nesting in box JC 11 Jun (WW); good numbers thru 15 Aug. **E. Kingbird**: max 19 on seven BBS; post breeding max seven BROO 6 Aug; last six OTSE 25 Aug, early departure. **Purple Martin**: good numbers TIOG Jun, only report. **Tree Swallow**: record 170 fledged in CORT Nest Box program, topping previous record of 161 set in 1995. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: singles CBBS and WPBBS; several TIOG Jun, scarce. **Bank Swallow**: 80 BPD 28 Jun, "included many y probably from some 200 nesting holes at nearby quarry." (MP). **Cliff Swallow**: two CBBS; five TIOG barns 16 Jul (MP), "nest with one hatchling still in it"; occasionally at three OTSE bridges, max eight; scarce. **Fish Crow**: three CCBS, only report. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: ad feeding y Oneonta feeder 8 Jun. **Carolina Wren**: two reports each BROO & TIOG, still scarce. **House Wren**: max 73 on seven BBS, low count for second successive year. **Winter Wren**: two CHEN reports, scarce for second successive year. **Marsh Wren**: arr BPd 28 Jun; max six there 13 Jul, best count since 1988. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max four Springfield OTSE (AM); singles BROO 4 Jun and 28 Aug, average. **E. Bluebird**: record 31 fledged from nine successful nesting attempts CORT Nest Box program (BT); four pairs nesting WB had "at least 10 fledglings" (TS). **Veery**: 54 on seven BBS; three banded Vestal Aug, below average counts. **Swainson's Thrush**: McDDBBS, missed last summer. **Wood Thrush**: 67 on seven BBS; "Low count," said Bob Miller of his survey count, "but better than last two years." **Gray Catbird**: 31 banded Vestal Aug, same number as last year (GK). **N. Mockingbird**: McD BBS; Oneonta Jun. Jul; four BROO sites, low count. **Brown Thrasher**: WB nest "eggs hatched 5 June, three fledged" (TS).

VIREOS - WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo:** max five McBBS, otherwise scarce. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** six widespread reports Jun, max two; two BROO Jul; last BrPd 9 Aug, scarce and early dep. **Warbling Vireo:** 38 on six BBS, highest survey count since 1990. **Philadelphia Vireo:** Triangle 1 Jun (T&NT), missed some years. **Red-eyed Vireo:** 175 on seven BBS, low to average survey counts except record high 63 on Milford survey. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max six McBBS; four JC 18 Jul, including ad feeding imm; seven banded Vestal Aug, excellent numbers thru. **Golden-winged Warbler:** JC 9 Jun (MP); banded 9 Aug (GK). **"Brewster's" Warbler:** Morris 11 Aug (JF). **Tennessee Warbler:** Preston 5 Jun (EH), missed last two years. **Nashville Warbler:** seven singles widespread thru June 17, high count; arr Morris 11 Aug; banded Vestal 17, 27 Aug. **Yellow Warbler:** 172 on seven BBS; high counts thru. **Chestnutsided Warbler:** 48 on six BBS, sizable survey decline from recent years; 11 banded Aug, one more than last year (GK). **Magnolia Warbler:** six sightings, max two during breeding season, all CHEN (EH); singles Morris 11 Aug; banded on 27, 28 Aug, scarce. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** two BROO reports; several CHEN Jul, Aug, scarce. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max six MBBS, scarce thru. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 10 on four BBS, lowest survey count since 1992. **Blackburnian Warbler:** four Jun reports; none Jul. Aug, record low. **Pine Warbler:** two BROO 27 Aug (MP,SK), often missed. **Prairie Warbler:** max five Bornt Hill Endicott 19 Jun (MP,SK); five other reports Jun; two Jul; ad male and juv JC 24 Aug, high count. **Palm Warbler:** BrPd 9 Aug, rare in summer. **Black-and-white Warbler:** seven Jun reports, six Aug, below average. **Am. Redstart:** 17 on six BBS, scarce thru. **N. Waterthrush:** three Jun reports, max two; none Jul; four banded Vestal Aug, scarce. **Mourning Warbler:** eight Jun reports max four McBBS; none Aug, low count. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr and banded Vestal 25 Aug, always scarce. **Canada Warbler:** max four ORES; two OTSE 3 Jun, BROO 23 Jul; 11 reports Aug max two, good Aug total.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager:** max 15 on six BBS, low count continued thru. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** pairs at many feeders to mid Jul; post breeding max five Preston 4 Aug. **Indigo Bunting:** max 46 on seven BBS; last banded Vestal 26 Aug. **E. Towhee:** max six LBBS, BROO 18 Jul and 26 Aug, population steady. **Vesper Sparrow:** four singles BROO Jul, scarce. **Savannah Sparrow:** 30 on seven BBS; four EHRd area 1 Jun; three LPd 5 Jul; four Lisle 26 Jul; WB "common thru" (TS), average for last five years. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** three EHRd 1 Jun (MP), 3 Jul (WW); three LPd 5 Jul (EH), good for the 90's. **Henslow's Sparrow:** max eight LPd 5 Jul; one there 11 Jun, average for the 90's. **White-throated Sparrow:** seven McBBS; six LBBS, scarce thru. **Bobolink:** max 121 on seven BBS; 30 T Maine 19 Jul; last 26 Jul, very early departure. **E. Meadowlark:** max nine LBBS; last BROO 7 Aug, scarce.

Baltimore Oriole: max 64 on seven BBS, high count. **Purple Finch:** max 13 T Preston 7 Jul, 25 Aug.; widespread Jun, Jul, good count.

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REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The weather in Region 5 for the summer period was dry but not record-breaking. Only 0.4 inches of rain fell from 10 July through the first week of August. An average temperature of 67.9°F was recorded for June with a high of 90°F on 25 June and a low of 44°F on 15 Jun. Precipitation was 1.64 inches or 2.15 inches below normal. July had an average temperature of 69.8°F with a high of 94°F on 15 July and a low of 50 on both 8 and 30 July. Precipitation was 2.78 inches for the month which was 1.03 inches below normal. August data recorded included a high on 10 August of 93°F and a low of 49 on 7 August with an average for the month of 68.7°F. Rainfall was 4.06 inches which was 0.55 inches above normal.

The cold wet spring may have been responsible for some of the lingering waterfowl in the Region including the two Horned Grebes on Woodman Pond on June 3, only the second summer record. The first August record for Horned Grebe was one in alternate plumage on August 31 at Delta Lake, nearly a month early for a migrant and possibly(?) related to the June sighting. Am. White Pelican continues to be an overshoot into the Region, it has been recorded five of the past seven years in spring or summer after only one previous record. Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead all lingered into the June and a handful of other duck species, rare in the summer but conceivably breeding, was noted.

For several years it has been suspected that Bald Eagle was nesting near the Altmar Fish Hatchery and this year DEC personnel did say that there was one fledgling at a nest in the area. Osprey continue to expand in the Region with adults fishing in ponds near Fayetteville and later bringing a young bird to feed plus birds seen carrying fish in Mexico, but no nests were found.

Shorebirds are usually the stars of migration during the summer and that was the case this year as birds began to arrive in mid July. One observer called it "a very interesting early migration at Delta Lake," which was already being drawn

down in July and where there was a wide range of shorebirds plus Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and at least four Bald Eagles. Sylvan Beach over the past few years has had few shorebirds, but this year, despite the usual recreational activity (which may bother birders more than birds), there were many birds present including **Marbled Godwit** and Red-necked Phalarope. Even Biddlecum Pond, normally ringed with weeds in the summer, had low water levels as a result of the drought and attracted 15 shorebird species including the only Western Sandpiper.

A juvenile **Black-legged Kittiwake**, well described, was a record early arrival at Sandy Pond on **August 31** as well as the first summer sighting. As in 1996, good numbers of both cuckoo species were reported, but it's difficult to tell yet whether this is a real increase or just a case of more active birders in the normally slow period of June and July. The Common Nighthawk migration at the end of August over Slocum Heights in Syracuse was the best since 1993, but at the same time they have become very hard to find over cities and towns during the breeding season. Whip-poor-wills may be declining at their last known stronghold in Cleveland as development and logging infringe on the area.

Taking part in a Cornell study of Cerulean Warblers, Chris Hymes and Bill Evans were able to identify an amazing total of 77 Cerulean males on territory at Howland Island WMA. While surveying the breeding birds in Oneida County, Matt Perry reported 16 instances of cowbird parasitism in eight species of warblers and vireos.

The status of many grassland species is of current concern to many biologists, but the reports of Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows this season show that they can be found at numerous locations when looked for. Grasshopper Sparrows have found the grassy caps on the former Dewitt and Onondaga landfills suitable habitat. Sedge Wrens were found at two locations and Henslow's Sparrow at one; good news for species that in recent years have not been found annually. There seems to be a lot of potential, but constantly changing habitat for both and one hopes that some sites simply haven't been located.

A total of 208 species plus two forms was noted for the season. Some negatives include no reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron or Horned Lark and the continued decline of caprimulgids. The positives for the season include Horned Grebes, Am. White Pelican, Snow Goose, **Marbled Godwit**, Willet, Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes, **Black-legged Kittiwake** and the Cerulean Warblers at Howland Island.

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Abbreviations: Bvllc - Baldwinsville, CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, DL - Delta Lake, HIWMA - Howland Island WMA, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, SPd - Sandy Pond, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, UM - Utica Marsh

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** last spring Woodman Pd 3 Jun; one Bas OnonL 3 Aug. **Pied-billed Grebe:** one SPd 21 Jul; 3-4 broods seen UM, parent feeding six y UM 5 Jul. **Horned Grebe:** last two Woodman Pd 3 Jun, record late; one Alt DL Aug 31, first August record. **Am. White Pelican:** one 6-20 Jul OneiL. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 162 Constantia 11 Jun. **Am. Bittern:** max two SPd 1 Jun; singles West Monroe, Hastings and Constantia. **Least Bittern:** max four UM 26 Jul; one West Monroe 3 Aug. **Great Blue Heron:** 63 nests Cicero; S OSWE heronries stable. **Great Egret:** arr one Constantia 6 Jul; max six DL 11-31 Aug; singles Ira, Cicero, OnonL and Holland Patent. **Green Heron:** max 18 CM 9 Aug. **Snow Goose:** one Fulton 27 Jul, apparently healthy, only second summer record. **Wood Duck:** max 1280 West Monroe 24 Aug. **Green-winged Teal:** one m Biddlecum 7 Jun; three West Monroe 25 Jul, possible breeding locations; max 150 DL 31 Aug. **Am. Black Duck:** max eight DL 31 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one DL 9 Aug, only report. **Blue-winged Teal:** pairs at two breeding sites Hastings Jun; max 110 DL 31 Aug. **N. Shoveler:** one SVB 24 Aug, only report. **Am. Wigeon:** one SVB 22 Aug, only report. **Ring-necked Duck:** pair DL thru 13 Jun. **Lesser Scaup:** two males Woodman Pd to 4 Jul, second summer record. **Com. Goldeneye:** one OnonL 6-9 Aug. **Bufflehead:** one male Woodman Pd to 13 Jun. **Hooded Merganser:** female and nine y Tracy Lake near Tully 20 Jun; eight DL 31 Aug. **Com. Merganser:** one SVB 18 Jul; arr DL 30 Jul; max 40 DL 15 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey:** two Altmar nests w total of 3 y; one seen carrying sticks near Lake Julia 14 Aug; oldest of three Bvllc nests lost during a storm. **Bald Eagle:** Altmar nest produced one FL; seven other reports including four different birds DL in Aug. **N. Harrier:** pair Pulaski 6 Jul; successful nesting Tully; five reports from ONEI. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** ad with two imm New Hartford 13 Jul; three nestlings Kirkland 14 Jul, six other reports. **Cooper's Hawk:** nest in Pompey with four FL; seven other reports. **N. Goshawk:** female and one imm Remsen 11 Jun; one HIWMA 23 Jul. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Rome Sand Plains 14 Jun and two Altmar 14 Jul, only reports. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one Tully 23 Jun, only report away from Adks. **Am. Kestrel:** family of six T Onondaga 5 Aug; max 10 Sangerfield 26 Aug. **Merlin:** max two DL 25 Aug. **Peregrine Falcon:** one DL 20 Aug. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** two North Victory BBS 9 Jun, only report. **Ruffed Grouse:** max 14 Rome 23 Jul. **Wild Turkey:** found at 13 stops on Alder Creek BBS 8 Jun; common outskirts of Syr. **Virginia Rail:** three family groups UM Jul-Aug; singles CM & West Monroe thru. **Sora:** max two UM 10 Jun. **Com. Moorhen:** max seven ad and seven imm

West Monroe 3 Aug. **Am. Coot**: last one UM 10 Jun. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr SVB 8 Aug; max four DL 10 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover**: arr Biddlecum 19 Jul; max 42 DL 31 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 43 Sangerfield 26 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr Biddlecum 27 Jul; max six 11 DL Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr Biddlecum 19 Jul; max 50 DL 18 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: one Hastings 14 Jun, very late (BP); arr Lysander 19 Jul; max 13 DL 3 Aug. **Willet**: one DL 15-23 Aug (MP, DJC). **Spotted Sandpiper**: max nine DL 3 Aug. **Upland Sandpiper**: max eight Remsen 22 Jul; last Syr 22 Aug. **Whimbrel**: one SPd 24 Aug, only report. **MARBLED GODWIT**: one SVB 19-27 Aug, fifth Regional record (MP, DC, mob). **Ruddy Turnstone**: one SPd 28 Jul and two SVB 21-22 Aug, only reports. **Sanderling**: arr SPd 21 Jul; max 30 SPd 28 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr SVB 23 Jul; max 45 SPd 28 Jul. **Western Sandpiper**: one Biddlecum 8 Aug (TS). **Least Sandpiper**: arr Lysander 19 Jul; max 35 SVB 8 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one SPd 17 Aug, only report. **Baird's Sandpiper**: arr one SPd 17 Aug; singles DL 18-31 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr DL 30 Jul; max 8 DL 15 Aug. **Stilt Sandpiper**: arr one ad SVB 8 Aug; one-two DL 11-25 Aug; one Paris 26 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr Biddlecum 25 Jul; max 7 SVB 22 Aug. **Com. Snipe**: max eight DL 10 Aug. **Am. Woodcock**: ad and imm West Monroe 1 Aug; three other reports. **Wilson's Phalarope**: one ad SVB 18-20 Aug; one imm Biddlecum 24-27 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope**: one SVB 20-24 Aug; one-two DL 20-26 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr six SPd 28 Jul; max 50 SVB 26 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 700 SPd 28 Jul. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one juv SPd 31 Aug (SA!), record early. **Caspian Tern**: max 112 SPd 1 Jun; post-breeding numbers at SPd lower than recent years. **Com. Tern**: max 320 SPd 24 Aug. **Black Tern**: five ad Deer Creek WMA 23 Jun; max 10 SPd 31 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove**: max 125 s. ONEI & se. MADI 26 Aug. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: max three Pompey in Jun; many other reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: max four HIWMA 26 Jun; three Remsen 14 Aug, unusual there; singles West Monroe 20 Jul, Bvll 15 Jun, Jamesville 6-8 Jun, Clark Reservation 29 Jun. **E. Screech-Owl**: ad with three y Otisco L 14 Jun; singles HIWMA 13 Jul and Fayetteville 31 Aug. **Great Horned Owl**: one-two DL all season; singles West Monroe 11 Jun and N. Syr 18 Jul. **Barred Owl**: max three New Hartford 15 Jun and Sangerfield 1 Jul; also one Whiskey Hollow 15 Jul. **Long-eared Owl**: one ad New Hartford 9 Aug; young heard there in Aug, never seen. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 271 Syr 25 Aug with 526 total for last 12 days Aug; only three singles reported during breeding season. **Whip-poor-will**: max three calling Constantia 6 Jul; one Holland Patent in Jun, only other site. **Chimney Swift**: max 28 UM 1 Jun. **Belted Kingfisher**: max seven HIWMA 23 Jul. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Shore Oaks T New Haven 22 Jun; several sightings of ad and imm SVB in Aug; two ad and one imm Paris 27 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max six Kirkland 6 Jul. **Black-backed**

Woodpecker: two males and two females along Third Lake Creek trail Old Forge 25 Aug. **Pileated Woodpecker:** ad with y Otisco L 20 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one Old Forge 29 Jun; two SVB 20 Aug; one Hastings 28 Aug, only migrants. **E. Wood-Pewee:** max seven Bvle 5 Jun. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last spring Remsen 4 Jun; arr Brookfield 26 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher:** pair HIWMA 8 Jul; at least one breeding pair Whiskey Hollow. **Alder Flycatcher:** max 10 Steuben 8 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher:** max eighteen CM 14 Jun; ad feeding cowbird UM 18 Jul. **Least Flycatcher:** max six Steuben 16 Jul. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max eight CM 4 Jun. **E. Kingbird:** max 17 Sangerfield 26 Aug. **Purple Martin:** two Rome 23 Jul; one Beaver L 9 Aug, only reports away from Oneil. **Tree Swallow:** max 120 Port Byron 23 Jul. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max seven Dewitt 17 Jul. **Bank Swallow:** max 30 DL 7 Jul. **Cliff Swallow:** daily maxima of two-four, no colonies reported. **Barn Swallow:** max 960 CM 9 Aug. **Gray Jay:** one Rock Dam HERK 30 Jun. **Fish Crow:** five in family group Syr Jul & Aug. **Com. Raven:** one Pulaski 13 Jul; common Adks. **Boreal Chickadee:** one Rock Dam 28 Jun; one Old Forge 25 Aug. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 20 Penn Mtn 20 Aug; small movement noted in Aug. **Carolina Wren:** one Waterville 10 Jul; two N Syr in Jul. **House Wren:** using Derby Hill nest boxes after Tree Swallows fledge; young being feed in a box DH 28 Aug, late. **Sedge Wren:** two singing birds West Monroe Jun & Jul; two along Cayuga R Jul. **Marsh Wren:** max 26 CM 4 Jun; three singing at new location West Monroe thru season. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 20 Penn Mtn 20 Jul. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max six UM 5 Jun; arr SPd 28 Jul. **Swainson's Thrush:** max six Remsen 22 Jul. **N. Mockingbird:** scarce ONEI; three reports ONON. **Brown Thrasher:** max four Kirkland 4 Aug. **Am. Pipit:** one injured West Monroe 4 Jun (BP), record late; arr SPd 24 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Yellow-throated Vireo:** one Otter Lake 22 Jun, unusual Adks. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Brookfield 27 Aug; total of four reported. **Red-eyed Vireo:** four instances of ad feeding cowbird chicks in Kirkland. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max seven Brookfield 19 Jul. **Golden-winged Warbler:** daily maxima of two; 16 individuals reported. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** max two New Hartford 12 Jun. **"Lawrence's" Warbler:** one Brookfield 27 Aug. **Tennessee Warbler:** one Stueben 8 Jun, late migrant; one N Branch Moose R Old Forge 29 Jun, possible breeder; arr MADI 31 Aug. **N. Parula:** one-two Whiskey Hollow, only site away from Adks. **Yellow Warbler:** early fledgling Pompey 12 Jun; late fledgling West Monroe 3 Aug. **Magnolia Warbler:** last spring CM 4 Jun; summer max 25 Brookfield 9 Jun. **Blackburnian Warbler:** spring migrants thru 4 Jun; summer max 22 Remsen 11 Jun, good numbers ONEI uplands; arr SPd 24 Aug. **Pine Warbler:** two males on territory Deer Creek WMA; consistently found in red pine plantations

in Forestport. **Prairie Warbler**: two pair Otisco and one male Spafford, continued expansion into s. ONON. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: arr DL 26 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max 12 UM 1 Jun; last Syr 9 Jun; one Big Moose 29 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler**: 77 males singing on territory HIWMA in Jun survey. N. **Waterthrush**: four migrants SPd 28 Jul. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: max four Marcy 19 Jun, with one ad giving distraction display; also three Cedarvale 20 Jun. **Wilson's Warbler**: last spring Deer Creek WMA 4 Jun; arr SPd 24 Aug; many reports last week Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: Perry noted only one ad feeding imm and four cases of cowbirds being fed. **Vesper Sparrow**: reported from 15 locations, more than usual. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 90 s. ONEI & se. MADI 28 Jun. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: max five HIWMA 11 Jun; found on grassy caps of former Dewitt and Onondaga landfills. **Henslow's Sparrow**: two Boylston 6 Jul. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one Paris 2 Jun, late migrant; singles Big Moose and Old Forge 29 Jun, only summer reports. **Bobolink**: max 25 Holland Patent 5 Jun. **E. Meadowlark**: reports generally of low numbers. **Orchard Oriole**: one female Kirkland 11 Aug. **House Finch**: low numbers where reported. **Red Crossbill**: small numbers n. ONEI. **Pine Siskin**: max 21 Hastings 2 Jun; last six Holland Patent 8 Jun; three Remsen 30 Jun, prob breeding. **Evening Grosbeak**: max five Steuben 4 Jun; several reports of one-two in mid Jul dispersal flight.

EXOTICS: **Spotted Dove** (*Streptopelia chinensis*?): one bird with a silver leg band Vernon 28 Jul, apparently around since May.

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REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer of 1997 proved to be quite normal for the North Country. The early warmth of June proved a welcome departure from the chill of May. Late leafing species such as willow and walnut were completely bare as the last wave of migrant warblers moved through Morristown STLA, providing the author with a rare treat during the first week in June. June was one to two degrees warmer than average giving most species an early start for nesting. July was dry, windy and slightly cooler (-0.8°F) than the average. Rains during the last ten days of the month ended the drought. August was about one half degree cooler than average. Precipitation varied from slightly below normal in the

Adirondacks to two inches above normal in Gouverneur, which experienced some local storms in the St. Lawrence Valley. The only detrimental effect of weather on breeding was high water in the St. Lawrence River combined with steady winds in July resulting in the loss of 135 Common Tern nests on shoals and low islands from Clayton to Chippewa Bay.

Double-crested Cormorant nesting pairs on Little Galloo Island IBA decreased from 8400 to 7500 this year as nesting areas have decreased and DEC continues to keep the cormorants from nesting on nearby Gull Island. The presence of eight **Great Egrets** in a swamp near Winthrop STLA suggests a breeding attempt. No nests or young were reported. More observation is needed next year. A **Trumpeter Swan** pair nested for the third year in a row at Perch River WMA, producing seven young this year. [RRed: See note in *The Kingbird* 46(4):322 on probable origin of this pair from Wayne County waterfowl collection.] Noteworthy is the fact that this species has chased all the Mute Swans out of this large area of the Wildlife Management Area.

Two new Region 6 species were found this summer, **Black Vulture** and **Fish Crow**. Brian Wood found the vulture on Route 22 near Oxbow JEFF. Bettye Hughes heard, then spotted, the crow at the Salmon Run Mall in Watertown. This is a northward extension of 70 miles for this species. The other rarity was a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** seen by Brian and Mary Wood at Chaumont on 30 August. This is a second record for the Region.

Grassland surveys by Nick Leone, Dean DiTommaso, Mickey Scilingo provided excellent coverage this season. Leone found stable populations of **Henslow's Sparrow** in the Perch River Grassland IBA as did DiTommaso with **Sedge Wren** in the Lisbon Grassland IBA. Scilingo reported excellent numbers of Upland Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow and **Clay-colored Sparrow** from surveys on Fort Drum. Both Scilingo and Leone found **Short-eared Owls** this year as well. New grassland surveys were developed by Gerry Smith using point counts with ten minute time periods in the Towns of Lyme and Ellisburg JEFF. Good numbers of Vesper Sparrow were located by Bill Purcell on the Ellisburg route, and Leone found a probable nesting area for Northern Harrier on the Lyme route.

The Five Ponds Wilderness Area in the Town of Fine STLA, closed since the blowdown from the microburst in July 1995, opened its trails this summer. Peter O'Shea made the following initial observations: increased numbers of Winter Wren, Nashville Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Mourning Warbler and marked decreases in Black-throated Green Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Massawepie Mire and nearby Hitchins Bog, Towns of Piercefield and Colton STLA, were surveyed again this summer for **Palm Warbler** by Dean DiTommaso, Bob Long, John Fritz and Nick Leone. The result was a total of 28 singing males, confirming the presence of a localized but stable breeding colony of this species in the Western Adirondacks.

Positives for the period included successful nesting of Bald Eagle and good numbers of Am. Bittern, Wood Duck, N. Harrier and Am. Kestrel in JEFF, Upland Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, E. Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, and Yellow Warbler.

Negatives for the period included poor counts of Sharp-shinned Hawk, lower numbers of nesting Black Tern, disruption of the shorebird migration at El Dorado Town of Ellisburg JEFF due to high water, and fewer reports of Least Flycatcher, E. Kingbird and Barn Swallow.

Species out of season included Snow Goose and Bufflehead in June and Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe and Greater Scaup in August. Rarities were Canvasback, Am. Coot, **LITTLE GULL**, Tennessee Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

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Abbreviations : AD - Adirondack Park; AWMA - Ashland WMA T Lyme & Cape Vincent JEFF; BBBS - Balmat BBS TFowler, Pitcairn STLA, TDiana LEWI 21 Jun; BMM - Beaver Meadow Marsh Watertown; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; CB - Chaumont Barrens T Clayton/Lyme JEFF; Cr L - Cranberry L T Clifton STLA; DMWMA - Dexter Marsh WMA THounsfield & Brownville JEFF; ED - El Dorado Beach Preserve TEL; TEL-T Ellisburg JEFF; FL - Fledged y; FY - feeding y; Then -T Henderson JEFF; Hit B - Hitchens Bog TPiercefield+Colton STLA; IBA- Important Bird Area, National Audubon Soc; JEFF - Jefferson Co; KC - Kelsey Cr Watertown; LEWI - Lewis Co; LG - Little Galloo I. T Hounsfield JEFF; TMas - T Massena STLA; Tmor - T Morristown STLA; TLou - T Louisville STLA; MM - Massawepie Mire T Colton/Piercefield STLA; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, 16 Jun (RL); Osw - Oswegatchie; PRWMA - Perch River WMA JEFF; PBBS - Philadelphia BBS 18 Jun (RL); PPT - Pillar Pt T Brownville JEFF; Pt Pen - Point Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; PC - Pond near Chaumont TLyme JEFF; RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam SLR T Mas STLA; SLR - St. Lawrence R; STLA - St. Lawrence Co; SLV - St. Lawrence Valley; TH - Tug Hill - JEFF & LEWI Co; WBBS - Wanakena BBS T Fine, Clifton, Clare STLA 19 Jun (RL); WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-WATERFOWL
Pied-billed Grebe: five reports, max four imm PC 29 Aug.
Horned Grebe: two in early winter plumage RMPD 28 Aug (BD), early.

Red-necked Grebe: one PRWMA 24 Aug (RB), early.
Double-crested Cormorant: nests on SLR increased from 600 to 800 in Tmor & TMas.
Am. Bittern: twelve reports from eight areas; max six PC.

Least Bittern: singles Stoney Cr Boat Launch TEL, TMas, & PRWMA.

Great Egret: eight marsh Rt 420 Winthrop TStockholm STLA (MB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: four to eight BMM 20 Jul-9 Aug; one Gull I HB 6 Jun; three Winthrop swamp, TStockholm STLA (CS).

Trumpeter Swan: pr with seven y PRWMA.

Mute Swan: one Grass I SLR 1 Jun; one PRWMA 7 Jun.

Snow Goose: one with 18 Canada Geese Rt 5 TLyme JEFF 8 Jun (NL&BH), late.

Wood Duck: breeding throughout; max 100+ BMM 20 Jul.

Green-winged Teal: one imm TMas 29 Jul; two ED 28 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: four reports: Coles Cr TLou, BMM, ED, max eight PRWMA.

Blue-winged Teal: four reports: prs Tmas & FD, singles ED & PRWMA.

Gadwall: ad with six imm Marsh Pond TMas 20/Jul; single PRWMA 7 Jun; two RMPD 27 Jun.

Am. Wigeon: one PRWMA 7 Jun.

Canvasback: single female OSWR T Colton STLA WBBS 19 Jun (RL).

Ring-necked Duck: 20 ad + 11y ULLWMA 14 Jun (DD).

Greater Scaup: single male Pt Pen 18 Aug (IM).

Com. Goldeneye: one female Sawyer's Bay TThen (GM).

Bufflehead: single male RMPD 27 Jun(PD), late.

Hooded Merganser: ad with 11 imm TLou 5 Jun (MB); two CP 29 Aug (CVG).

Com. Merganser: six ED Aug 9.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: six active nests SLR Alexandria Bay JEFF to Chippewa Bay STLA (RL); three other reports of nine ind; max six PRWMA 7 Jun (MK).

Bald Eagle: two y in nest PRWMA; three y in nest at Raquette R STLA 11 June; single imm at Lakeview WMA 30 June (GS); imm ED 22 Aug (LC).

N. Harrier: reports from 19 areas; two probable nesting locations in the Towns of Lyme and Orleans JEFF (NL), highest numbers in last six years. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** five reports of singles, very low numbers.

Cooper's Hawk: four reports of five ind.

N. Goshawk: single ad Rt 56 T Colton STLA (NL, BH).

Red-shouldered Hawk: singles BBBS, T Theresa JEFF, & T Fine STLA; two T Clifton STLA.

Broad-winged Hawk: several seen between Star L and Sevens Corners Rt 3 towns of T Fine, Clifton, & Colton STLA (PO).

Red-tailed Hawk: FY TMas 3 Jun.

Am. Kestrel: ten reports from JEFF; only three from STLA.

Merlin: singles PRWMA 24 Aug (RB); ED 22 Aug (LC).

Gray Partridge: two 15 Jun; 15-20 on 11 Aug, all CV.

Ruffed Grouse: seven reports; broods in AD.

Wild Turkey: large flocks everywhere after a mild winter.

Am. Coot: two Winthrop Marsh Rt 420 16 Aug (MB).

Black-bellied Plover: two Pt Pen 18 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: three ED 8 Aug; two PtPen 18 Aug; 30 PC 30 Aug. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr ED 9 Aug; one PtPen 18 Aug; two Ed 22 Aug; 25 PC 30 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr BMM 20 Jul(3); max six ED 6 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr three BMM 20 Jul; dep two Blake Sanctuary 26 Jul.

Spotted Sandpiper: max four PRWMA 30 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper 11 reports from JEFF; two from STLA; max 10 FD.

Sanderling: arr ED 6 Aug; max 6 ED 12 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. one Clayton JEFF 1 Jun; arr ED 6 Aug (26); max 30 PC 29 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: arr BMM 20 Jul 2; eight PC 30 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: one PC 29 Aug.

Dunlin: eight ED 14 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: five PtPen 18 Aug; 12 PC 29 Aug.

LITTLE GULL: one juv Ed 29 Aug (GS), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: 12 ad seven juv RMPD; 28 singles ED 20 Jul, 6 Aug.

Great Black-backed Gull: 33 mostly first yr RMPD 28 Aug (PD).

Caspian Tern: 800 pr LG, numbers improved.

Com. Tern: 385 nests SLR, mostly on navigation sites; most natural sites washed out by wave action (LH); nest with two y CV; four nests Pt Pen I 18 Jun (IM).

Black Tern: 47 nests PRWMA (down 50%), 55% successful; six nests LWMA, only one

successful; DWMA 31 nests, 52% successful, 21 nests on floating boards; 30 ad ULLWMA TCanton STLA 14 Jun.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: nine reports thru; max nine on point count TEI 5 Jul.

E. Screech-Owl: road kill Sawyers Bay THEN 24 Aug.

Barred Owl: one TMas; one Rt 81 TEI (MS).

Short-eared Owl: singles Dog Hill Rd TOrleans 6 Jun; AWMA 20 Jul; three Baggs Corner THounsfield 14 Jun; Rt 342 near Gould's corners TLeRay 20 Jun (NL, BH, MAK), all JEFF; one to two/day confirmed breeding FD (MS).

Com. Nighthawk: singles Then & TMas early Jun; three Watertown 15 Jul; dep eight to ten circling with 40 gulls intersection Rts 11 & 342 TLe Ray JEFF 25 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: two TLou 2 Jun; 19 TLyme JEFF 2 Jun (NL).

Red-headed Woodpecker: one CV Village all summer; singles on pt count T EI 15 Jun; Belleville TEI 27 Jun; FD 18 Jun.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: FY THEN; two on pt count TEI 15 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pr KC early Jun, only report; missed on WBBS, usually there are ten (RL).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: two HitB 29 Jun (DD).

E. Wood-Pewee: reports increased from JEFF; average numbers OBBS.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one near Cr L 2 Jul (PO); four MM 15 Jun (JF RL).

Alder Flycatcher: eight P+OBBS; ten TMas; six pt count TEI, MM; five BBBS, well distributed in SLV; ad JEFF.

Willow Flycatcher: max 13 pt count TEI; increasing in the SLV 6 P+OBBS; three Clayton RR; two Wanakena 8 Jun (RB), unusual.

Least Flycatcher: 30 TNorfolk 3 Jun; 13 BBBS; five WBBS, 50% below average.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 12 pt count TEI 9 Jun; 10 TLou 1 Jun.

E. Kingbird: 4-8/day TLou; eight pt count TEI 9 Jun; seven P+OBBS, down 50%.

Horned Lark: two Clayton RR 5 Jul; single TLou 1 Jun.

Purple Martin: good numbers from SLV; improving on Lake Plain.

Bank Swallow: 154 pt count TEI 5 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 200+ Long Sault Dam TMas 1 Jun (MB).

Barn Swallow: numbers still down 50% on grassland BBS routes.

Gray Jay: three ad & two juv MM 15 Jun (DD).

Com. Raven: reports from THEN, TTheresa, FD away from Adirondacks.

Sedge Wren: 14 PRWMA grasslands IBA area (NL); 18 in grasslands of TLisbon, TCanton IBA (DD), numbers above 1995 surveys.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: three WBBS; two MM 15 Jun.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two MM 15 Jun; single TMas 1 Jun, late mig.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: singles THEN 17, 18 Jul, 15 Aug (LC), possible migrants.

Veery: 14 BBBS; max 45 TLou.

Hermit Thrush: eight BBBS; seven WBBS, average; three TLou.

Wood Thrush: max 50 TLou/TMas 8 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: singles on pt counts TEI, only reports.

WARBLERS-VIREOS

Solitary Vireo: seven BBBS.

Yellow-throated Vireo: three THammond/Macomb STLA 16 Jun (NL BH); singles PBBS & pt count TEI.

Warbling Vireo: max 28 P+OBBS, 40% above 10 yr average; increasing past three yr.

Red-eyed Vireo: 98 WBBS, recovery after low year of 1994.

Blue-winged Warbler: three reports FD; one Dean School House Rd TEI (NL MS).

Golden-winged Warbler: two TMas; two reports FD & TEI; five PBBS.

Tennessee Warbler: two TLou 1 Jun, late mig; one singing male HitB 29 Jun (DD).

Nashville Warbler: FL TMas; reports from Wanakena, L Bonaparte, & CB; seven BBBS; max 26 MM 15 Jun (JF RL).

N. Parula: two MM 15 Jun.

Yellow Warbler: 52 OBBS, increasing 5% yearly past four years.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: seven WBBS, down 50% from average; max 12 BBBS.

Magnolia Warbler: reports from Then & TEI; max five BBBS; breeding ED.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max five WBBS.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 15 WBBS average; breeding ED.

Black-throated Green Warbler: five WBBS; dep ED 30 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: three WBBS; dep KC 24 Aug.

Pine Warbler: six TLou/TMas 8 Jun; two Massawepie L T Piercefield 15 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: singles PRWMA & Co Rt 5 Tlyme; two CB; two CV.

Palm Warbler: 19 singing males MM 15 Jun; nine singing males Hit B 29 Jun, 5 Jul. (NL DD JF RL).

Cerulean Warbler: five Hard flats Rd TTheresa JEFF; two Black L Rd TMacomb STLA (NL BH).

Black-and-white Warbler: max eleven WBBS, BBBS.

Am. Redstart: 29/day TLou/TMas; 26 WBBS, average.

Ovenbird: 40/day TLou/TMas; 31 BBBS; 26 WBBS, above average.

Louisiana Waterthrush: single W. Lyden Rd T Oseola LEWI 6 Jun (NL BH).

Mourning Warbler: reports from TEL pt count, BBBS, & Tug Hill SF; three WBBS.

Com. Yellowthroat: 56 P+OBBS, increasing past five years.

Hooded Warbler: single TEL pt count 9 Jun; two TOseola LEWI 6 Jun (NL, BH).

Wilson's Warbler: male TMas 14 Jun (MB), late mig.

Canada Warbler: three TEL 15 Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: one Area 38 FD 10 Jun (JB).

TCLayton 25 Jun, all JEFF; two CB; max seven FD 3 Jun.

Field Sparrow: max eight FD 24 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: TEL pt count; singles TCLayton & CV; max 21 FD 26 Jun; FY TLou & FD.

Savannah Sparrow: 26 P+OBBS, average.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 15 from eight sites in JEFF-Tlyme, TCLayton, TOrleans, PPT, & PRWMA (NL); singles TEL, T Hounsfield; FY TLou; max 12 FD.

Henslow's Sparrow: night surveys totaled 50 individuals from several sites in grasslands around PRWMA (NL); FY TLou 15 Jun (MB), several sites; FY FD.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: one Chaumont Tlyme 30 Aug, buffy unstreaked chest (CVG!, NYSARC).

Song Sparrow: 50 OBBS, back to average numbers; low numbers on Lake plain.

Lincoln's Sparrow: three MM 15 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: 20 WBBS; 35/day TMas, about average.

White-crowned Sparrow: three TMas 1 Jun.

Bobolink: exploding in uncut hayfields JEFF & STLA.

E. Meadowlark: 29 PBBS; 17 OBBS, average.

Purple Finch: FL TMas & THEN.

House Finch: FY TMas; one OBBS; few other reports.

Red Crossbill: FY MM Tlou

Pine Siskin: a few fly overs Jun MM THEN.

Evening Grosbeak: single Alder acres TLorraine TH 7 Jul; FY Barnes Corners LEWI; fly overs MM THEN.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: few reports; FY TMas.

Chipping Sparrow: 28 BBBS; 10 OBBS; 41/day TMas, about average.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Co Rt 9 CV 13 Jun; middle Rd PPT 15 Jul; Three mile preserve

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REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The cool, wet spring was followed by a warm, generally pleasant summer, more similar to the drought of '95 than to the rains of '96. Lake Champlain stood at a relatively high 97 ft in early June, dropping only to 96.24 ft in mid-July, and 95.46 in early August. There were heavy rains on 21 June and a downpour that saw a welcome 1 in. to 3 in. fall across the Region 13 August, but neither was enough to break the drought, and most other precipitation came from passing showers. The immediate impacts may have been improved nesting success and poorer shorebirding. Future months may show effects of the failure of the wild food crop to develop -- especially gray dogwood, grapes, and other berries.

A total of 75 Double-crested Cormorants, two Cattle Egrets, 74 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1,046 Ring-billed Gulls (1,000 chicks, plus 46 adults), 129 Herring Gulls, and six Great Black-backed Gulls were banded on the Four Brothers 14 June-18 July. Five hundred Ring-billed Gulls again received yellow, numbered color bands as part of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection study. The number of cormorant nests declined 29%, from 1,184 in '96 to 836 this year. Great Blue Herons also dropped from 27 nests to a dozen. Both declines are largely attributed to loss of branches on dead trees used for nesting. Cattle Egrets moved from Island "D" to "B" and slipped to about three pairs, perhaps due to the incredible spurt by Black-crowned Night-Herons, up 90% from 90 nests to 171, an all-time high. (Normand St. Jacques found 90 nests in 1954, the DEC 89 in 1979, and High Peaks Audubon 90 last year, although numbers have fluctuated below that level over the last four decades.) Two hen Red-breasted Mergansers were flushed and an old nest with cold eggs found. Tree Swallows, which have nested in crevices in the cliffs for over a century, are now nesting more conventionally in dead pines on Island "D."

The NYS DEC surveyed 53 Adirondack Osprey nests by air, with 24 productive, ten failed, 12 inactive, three partly down, three down, and one unknown. A total of 50 young were produced this year, up from the 30 in the wake of the Mother's Day snowstorm of '96 produced last year. Add to that two young at Ausable Point, one at Scotion Creek, and two at Webb Royce Swamp outside the aerial survey and the total is 55 young Ospreys. Bald Eagles had their best year ever, with six successful nests, plus one failed, all located in Franklin County. These produced eight eaglets (plus an abandoned egg), a remarkably heartening result.

All nine active Peregrine Falcon eyries were located in Essex County, and all were successful: Chesterfield (two fledged), two Keene sites (one young

each), Moriah (one fledged), North Elba (one fledged), Westport (one fledged), Willsboro (two fledged), Wilmington (one fledged), and a new Schroon site (one fledged); the Elizabethtown site appeared inactive. An adult and newly fledged immature Peregrine were seen at Willsboro Bay 18 July.

In Essex County, two young Merlins from Moody Pond were hand-reared, banded, and released at Ray Brook 15 August. A Hamilton Co. pair produced three fledglings at Long Lake. Most Merlin sightings came from Franklin County: a Middle Saranac Lake pair produced two young, a male was seen on Lower Saranac Lake, a female at Owls Head was seen carrying nesting material and the male heard calling back, while another pair was at nearby Mountain View. A male Merlin at Camp Topridge on Upper St. Regis Lake was taken in with a fractured left phalange, rehabilitated, banded, and released there 15 June. Altogether, another great year for these falcons.

Charlie Mitchell found an agitated male **Wilson's Phalarope** attending a nest with four eggs at the Chazy Rivers site 7 June. The male (present since late May) remained until 11 June, when dairy cows were let into the nest field, then nothing was seen for five weeks (and six visits) until Mitchell and Bill Krueger found a single juvenile phalarope on 18 July.

Bud Lanyon counted nine singing male **"Yellow" Palm Warblers** at Spring Pond and Willis Brook Bogs, FRAN, during June. On the former bog a female was carrying nest material 15 June, the pair carrying food 6 July, and the next day a **photograph of the nest with four young was taken**; this is the first nest with young found in New York State. Sabattis Bog, HAMI, again had **"Yellow" Palm Warblers** in late June, according to Nick Leone and Bill Purcell. Meanwhile, at Bloomingdale Bog, FRAN, where Bill Barber had earlier reported a **Wilson's Warbler** on 26 May, Mark Gretch also found a singing male on 14 June.

The total of 179 species (plus an apparent escape) reported fell between the 185 in the drought of '95 and 171 in last year's wet summer. Other highlights included a dark-phase **Swainson's Hawk** migrating north at Witherbee, two **Willetts** at Valcour, **Stilt Sandpiper** at Chazy Rivers, **Little Gull** and **Caspian Tern** at Tupper Lake. All said, an interesting -- if dry -- summer.

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Abbreviations: BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; IL - Indian L, HAMI; PAFB - former Plattsburgh AFB; RB - Ray Brook; SB - Sabattis Bog; SLB - Silver Lake Bog; SPB - Spring Pond Bog; TL - Tupper Lake; TLP - Tupper Lake municipal park; WBB - Willis Brook Bog; WRS - Webb Royce Swamp.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** downy chick Mt View L 27 Jul (JT), first since observer moved to area in '73. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 836 nests FBI, 9% of 9,129 in NYS: Blue Mt L.(BF); RB 10 Jun (TD); IL 27-29 Jun (BM); SLHS 9 Aug (TD), increasing inland. **Great Egret:** max 3 WRS 6 Aug (NO,JP,MS,DS); 1 WRS to 19 Aug (mobs.); Barber Pd Aug; CR 22 Aug (BK,CM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 171 nests FBI: 1-5 ads WRS 17 Jul-29 Aug; 3 Plattsburgh Bay 5 Jul; 3 Scotion Cr 22 Jul, outstanding. **Canada Goose:** 25 migrating n Saranac L 6 Jun; 86 migrating n TL 7 Jun, late. **Gadwall:** 3 FBI 16 Aug. **Redhead:** 3 Rouses Point 14 Aug (RM), unusual. **Com. Goldeneye:** hen with 4 ducklings off Wickham Marsh 17 Jul (JP), rare breeder.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey:** seven on nest WRS 19 Jul (JP,DS); ad & 2 yg in nest WRS 4 Aug (MM,JP,DS); last WRS 18 Aug; fledged 2 Ausable Pt & 1 Scotion Cr; *intro*. **Bald Eagle:** six nests fledged eight eaglets, FRAN; *intro*. **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** dk phase migrating n Witherbee 10 Jun (GC), "Hawk all dark, Back dark gray from above, tail short, throat white... those previously seen in Texas all light birds." **Golden Eagle:** ad Keene 16 Aug (J&PT), now rare in summer. **Merlin:** pr Moody Pd 2 Jun-6 Jul, two yg hand-reared released RB 15 Aug; 2 ad, 3 fl Long L 26 Jul-1 Aug; 2 ad, 2 juv Middle Saranac L 27 Jul-5 Aug; male Lower Saranac L 13 Aug; pr Owls Head 29 Jun - mid-summer, female carrying nest material, male calling; pr Mt View from 23 Jul; male Upper St. Regis L 16 May, fractured one phalange, released there 15 Jun; another great year. **Peregrine Falcon:** nine eyries fledged 11 yg; ad & imm Willsboro Bay 18 Jul (RM,JP); transient CR 24 August (BK,CM), a fairly good year, but with continuing low nest productivity. **Virginia Rail:** TL 5 Jun; WRS 6-12 Aug, only reports. **Sora:** WRS 6 Aug, only report. **Com. Moorhen:** RB Marsh 7 Jun (TD), new ESSE location. **Semipalmated Plover:** two Westport 29-30 Aug (JP,DS), only report. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr CR 14 Jul; max 4 CR 16 Jul; Malone 28 Jul-10 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 3 CR 16 Jul; max 9 CR 24 Jul; Malone 3 Aug; Little Colby Pd 17 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr CR 28 Jul; Westport 12-29 Aug; Spellman Rd CLIN 26 Aug, all fairly typical. **WILLET:** two Valcour 30 Aug (J&RH), third CLIN record. **Upland Sandpiper:** 1-2 Banker & Stetson Rds. CLIN, 26 Jun 14 Jul, only report, but there is virtually no coverage of n. FRAN stronghold. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr CR 16 Jul; 3 Middle Saranac L 5 Aug (RM,MP), a surprise find. **Western Sandpiper:** Westport 12 Aug (TD). **Least**

Sandpiper: max 8 CR 14 Jul; 1-4 Westport 4-29 Aug (JP,DS); 3-6 Malone 28 Jul-10 Aug (JT), typical. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr CR 28 Jul (BK,CM), always a good find here. **STILT SANDPIPER:** CR 18 Aug (BK,CM), a rarity that has been turning up in recent years. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 3 CR 16 Jul (BK,CM), another good find. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** male CR 4 Jun; nest with 4 eggs, agitated male 7 Jun (CM); male, cows in nest field 11 Jun; juv 18 Jul, after six visits over intervening 5 wks (BK,CM). **LITTLE GULL:** 1-4 TLP 9 Jul (TD!); imm Raquette Pd 9 Jul (CD), feeding on insects on water surface. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr 8 Westport 4 Aug (MM,JP,DS); Middle Saranac L 5 Aug (RM,MP); 3 ad, 2 imm TLP 11 Aug (CD); max 100+ FBI 16 Aug (RM). **Ring-billed Gull:** 15,033 nests FBI. **CASPIAN TERN:** 4 TLP 9 Jul (TD); 3 TLP & Raquette Pd 10 Jul (CD). **Com. Tern:** CR 14 Jul; max 36 CR 30 Jul; CR 12 Aug, reflects successful nesting year in VT. **Black Tern:** molting ad & juv CR 14 Jul; ad feeding yg there 16 Jul; 2 ads & juv 20 Jul (BK,CM), slightly encouraging, but these are the only sightings.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** two Rugar Woods 23 Jun; IL 25 Jun; two Bombay Aug; TL 1 Aug, "first in many years." **Short-eared Owl:** mobbed by kestrel & crows Essex 19 Jul (JP,DS), where present from Dec '96 and where 1-4 were displaying 18 Apr-10 May. **Com. Nighthawk:** 1-2 Ames Plaza TL Jul (CD); WRS 12-19 Aug (RM,JP,DS); Wadhams 19 Aug (DS); max 8 migrants Plattsburgh 20 Aug (JC,JP); TL 24 Aug (PK), a good showing here. **Whip-poor-will:** Wakely Mt 17 Jul (MP), only report! **Three-toed Woodpecker:** Speculator yard 25 Jul (PK). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** Elk L 28 Jun (BM); two Feldspar Brook trail 18 Aug (J&PT).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Churubusco 13 Jun (BK,CM), outside usual range and new northernmost location in NYS. **Willow Flycatcher:** Ausable Pt 1 Jul (BK,CM), known location but only report. **Gray Jay:** FB 20 Jun (BK). **Com. Raven:** fledgling fell into L Placid 12 Jun, rehab and released there at Pulpit Rock 8 Jul (NS). **Boreal Chickadee:** Algonquin-Iroquois col; Avalanche L; FB; Giant; Slant Rock, all expected locales. **Tufted Titmouse:** Westport 4 Aug (MM,JP,DS), only report. **Marsh Wren:** WRS 6-18 Aug (NO,JP,DS); eutrophication of marsh following beaver trapping has led to increased cattail and other vegetative growth. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** two Scotion Cr 3 Jun (NO), only bird of summer. **Bicknell's Thrush:** two Blue Mt 26 Jun (BP), only report, but certainly not indicative of status. **Swainson's Thrush:** 20+ Elk L 27-29 Jun (BM). **N. Mockingbird:** Banker & Stetson Rds. CLIN, 11 Jun (BK,CM), nice find. **Brown Thrasher:** IL 25 Jun (BP); TL 8 Jul (CD), usually scarce in interior Adks.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Yellow-throated Vireo:** IL 27 Jun (BP), an excellent find, esp in HAMI. **Philadelphia Vireo:** transient Point au Roche 26 Aug (J&RH), scarce in CLIN. **Tennessee Warbler:** SB 24 Jun (BP); Blue Mt 26 Jun (BP), only birds reported. **Cape May Warbler:** one River Rd & two Connery Pd Rd ESSE 18 Jun (WE.NM), always a nice find. **Pine Warbler:** Scotch pines RB 27 Jul (TD); Lincoln Pd 17 Jun (WE.NM), not often reported. **"Yellow" PALM WARBLER:** female carrying nest material SPB 15 Jun, pr carrying food 6 Jul, 4 yg in nest 7 Jul (WL-photo); nine singing males SPB & WBB Jun (WL); two SB 24 Jun (BP); one SB 29 Jun (NL), all excellent observations, although there is still much for patient bog sloggers to learn. **Mourning Warbler:** pr Orebed Brook, Gothics at 3,000'-3,500' 2 Aug (JT), quite unexpectedly high. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** near summit Wakely Mt 17 Jul (MP), with Blackpolls [see *Atlas* p. 392]. **WILSON'S WARBLER:** singing male BB 14 Jun (MG), where present from 26 May. **Canada Warbler:** singing male Avalanche L 17 Aug (J&PT).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** good yr TL. **Vesper Sparrow:** seven PAFB (MG), down from high of 12 in '94. **Savannah Sparrow:** 19 PAFB (MG), same as '94 survey. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** seven PAFB (MG), down from high of 17 in '94; PAFB 8 Jul (BK,CM). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** The Gulf, CLIN, 20 Jun (J&RH), probably the northernmost locale in NYS, but where found during Atlas. **Bobolink:** McCanes Resort HAMI 24 Jun (BP), a county where found in just a dozen Atlas blocks. **Rusty Blackbird:** three Piseco 27 Jun (MP), surprisingly hard to find. **Purple Finch:** "schizochromatic" or leucistic bird Euclid Jones feeder, CLIN, 24 Aug (J&RH), pale buff & white all over with dark eyes. **House Finch:** returned Speculator 12 Jun, occ thereafter (PK). **Red Crossbill:** IL 25 Jun (BP); Wakely Mt 17 Jul (MP); female with newly fledged yg Westport 19 Jul (DS). **White-winged Crossbill:** Lincoln Pd 17 Jun (WE.NM); Black Brook 30 Jun (WE.NM). **Pine Siskin:** two Lincoln Pd & one North Elba 18 Jun; one Black Brook 19 Jun (WE.NM); dep Speculator about 20 Jun; returned 31 Aug (PK). **Evening Grosbeak:** returned to breed Speculator 15 Jun, ads with yg mid-Jul, dep by 20 Jul; large numbers Towns of Lake Pleasant & Wells, HAMI (PK); also summered Elizabethtown (JP) and TL (CD).

ESCAPE: **N. Bobwhite:** Ticonderoga 5-10 Jun (Glen Chapman), suspiciously similar to recent Chukar sightings in other parts of ESSE, although there was a "possible" Atlas record in CLIN. The last ESSE occurrence was at Willsboro 6-9 Aug 1893 (Augustus G. Paine, specimen collected).

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

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As reported from the Albany Co. Airport, weather in June was sunny and extremely dry, with a slightly above average temperature of 67.9° and with 69% sunshine. Precipitation of 0.74 in. was 2.88 in. below normal, making it the second driest June on record and the driest since 1964. July's temperature averaged 70.6°, 1.2° below normal, with 66% sunshine. The extremely dry conditions continued, with only 2.34 in. of rain measured, 0.84 in. below normal. August averaged a slightly below normal temperature of 68.6°, with 63% sunshine. Rainfall was 4.64 in., 1.17 in. above normal.

Reports received from the Region are indicative of an excellent breeding season, especially for grassland species. The dry, warm weather aided foraging adults. Bald Eagle was well represented with five nesting pairs. Two of these nests were successful and three young were fledged. The successful nest near Catskill was the first documented along the Hudson River in at least a century and was the subject of a major article in the *New York Times* on May 4 (p.37+). Upland Sandpipers bred again at Ft. Edward, with 11 adults and 3 young seen in early June. Due to the drought, there was a good amount of shorebird habitat, but numbers were down significantly from previous years, with only 14 species reported. This was probably due more to lack of birder effort than anything else. Eastern Bluebirds did well throughout, with 43 young fledged in two nestings at Five Rivers. Bicknell's Thrush was monitored by the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences on Hunter and Plateau mountains GREE during late May and June. Two nests with eggs were located on Hunter Mt., providing the first known confirmation of nesting by this species in the Catskills. The Cerulean Warbler Atlas project produced good results, with two sites surveyed that had not been looked at for many years - Castleton Island State Park and Bouck's Island SCHO. The Massachusetts Audubon Society's grassland bird survey included Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Washington counties in Region 8, where sites were checked by field assistant Lisa Meehan. Henslow's Sparrow numbers at the Saratoga National Historical Park were very low, with only one breeding pair present. However, two other sites were found in Ft. Edward, as well as one in the Town of Canajoharie, with several individuals present. There seems to have been something of an Orchard Oriole explosion, with apparent breeding in COLU, MONT, and WARR. With the initiation of the Important Bird Areas program, the long-overdue monitoring of bird populations at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve was finally begun by the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club with a June 28 "bird blitz" of several areas of the Preserve. Let's hope it continues.

Unusual birds sighted included Glossy Ibis, Barn Owl, Sedge Wren, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Clay-colored Sparrow. 190 species were reported during the period.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Kate Beale; Beth Bidwell; Brad Bidwell (Bbi); Bob Boehm (Bbo); Bob Budliger; Carol Budliger; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Jane Graves; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Tom Palmer; Karl Parker; Ray Perry; Barb Putnam; David Russell; Elton Rising; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; CDWMA - Capitol District WMA, RENS; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CPHW - Camp Pinnacle Hawk Watch, ALBA; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FeR - Ferry Rd., SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HP - Huyck Preserve, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; LG - Lake George, WARR; MA - Massachusetts Audubon Grassland Bird Survey; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; RF - Rotterdam Flats, SCHE; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SkW - Skidmore College North Woods, SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; TP - John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** two Thompson L SP ALBA 2 Jun (W. Watson); pr w. 2 y Garnet L WARR 15 Jun (*fide* DR); two Jabe Pd WARR 12 Jul, 12 Aug (ER). **Pied-billed Grebe:** six y MR near Nelliston 14 Jun (TP), uncommon breeders in Region; 12 BCR 30 Aug (WE). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 66 GI/Cohoes 27 Jul (WE, NM). **Am. Bittern:** one ad, two imm VF 31 Jul (JG); also bred BCM, FtE. **Least Bittern:** no reports. **Great Blue Heron:** max 89 T Ballston rookery 7 Jul (BP); began dispersing late Jul; max 50 VF 28 Jul. **Great Egret:** max 24 VF 10 Aug (AV); 25 RF 30 Aug (RP). **Snowy Egret:** one imm Stillwater 27 Jul (WE, NM); one Putnam Sta. WASH 11-16 Aug (*fide* LM). **Little Blue Heron:** one imm FeR 10 Aug (RG to BEN). **Green Heron:** max 10 VF 3 Aug (JG). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one SI 4 Jul (WE, NM); one Niskayuna 23 Jul (RP); one NRP 27 Jul (WE); one imm VF 2 Aug (BEN); one Cohoes 2 Aug (WE); one ad CL 5 Aug; one imm CL 6, 8 Aug (RP); two imm NR 14 Aug (RP); two MR SCHE 30 Aug (RP); two Cohoes 31 Aug (WE, NM). **Glossy Ibis:** two imm MR btw Cohoes-NR 23-30 Aug (RP, mob). **Mute Swan:** only reported from COLU. **Brant:** one CL 14 Jun (J. Saville

to BEN). **Wood Duck**: good breeding season at FR, VF; max 21 Town Line Rd WASH 31 Jul. **Green-winged Teal**: one VF 27 Jul, 2, 3 Aug; one Cohoes 2 Aug; two Cohoes 24 Aug; five FeR 21 Aug; 15 FeR 24 Aug. **Am. Black Duck**: max 33 Cohoes 2 Aug. **Mallard**: max 214 Cohoes 2 Aug. **N. Pintail**: one FeR 21 Aug (BBi). **Blue-winged Teal**: arr three FtE 27 Jul (WE); max 24 SI 30 Aug (WE, NM). **N. Shoveler**: two f Ferry Rd 23 Aug. **Gadwall**: one Cohoes 27 Jul (WE, NM). **Am. Wigeon**: two BCR 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Ring-necked Duck**: 30 BCR 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Hooded Merganser**: one f w. five y NB 16 Jun (RG to BEN); three HP 30 Aug; five Cohoes 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Com. Merganser**: two GI 13 Jul (WE); two ad w. 17 y L George WASH 9 Jun (BP).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: max 60 NB 29 Aug. **Osprey**: one VF 2 Jun (G. Recer to BEN); one Greenport COLU 4 Jun (ADBC); one Livingston COLU 24 Jul (ADBC); three August reports of singles. **Bald Eagle**: one imm Garnet L WARR 14 Jun (*fide* DR); two ad five imm NB 24 Jun (RG to BEN); one ad Batchelorville SARA 30 Jun, seen several times (R. Hays to BEN); one imm MR 19 Jun; one Hague WARR 9 Jul (LM); two ad & two imm NB 28 Jul, 23 Aug (RG to BEN); one imm Lock 9 SCHE 28 Jul (RP); nesting: five occupied nests in Region, two successful, three young fledged. **N. Harrier**: reported from three locations in FtE thru; one T Kingsbury 6 Aug; no nesting observed. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 16 reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk**: six reports of singles, including one taking young Am. Kestrel Amsterdam 20 Jun (TP). **N. Goshawk**: one territorial m Edinburg SARA 1 Jun (RY); one Ghent COLU 23 Jun (ADBC); one Harrisburg Rd. WARR 26 Jun (JG); one VF 27 Jun (BEN); one near VF 18 Jul (F. Murphy to BEN); one imm Hague 20 Aug (LM). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: eight reports of singles; probably nested JL (RY). **Broad-winged Hawk**: one carrying food Indian Meadows SCHE 16 Jun (RP); probably nested JL (RY); one dead on nest w. eggs Hague 30 Jun (LM); three Jefferson SCHO 23 Jul (AM); two Windham GREE 7 Aug (AV); "family group" NB 24 Aug (RG to BEN); seven reports of singles. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max ten FtE 27 Jul; nest w. three y Schenectady. **Am. Kestrel**: max 14 New Swamp Rd WASH 24 Jul, 6 Aug (BP); one f fledged five y Amsterdam (TP). **Merlin**: unverified report of two ad w. two y T Hague WARR 27 Jul (Steve Pierce *fide* LM); one BCM 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Peregrine Falcon**: five active nests LG area, six young fledged; one Dunn Mem Br area through period; one imm FtE 20 Jul (WE, NM); one imm StFl 26 Aug (JG); one CPHW 30 Aug. **Wild Turkey**: excellent breeding season. **Virginia Rail**: bred BCM, FtE, VF. **Sora**: one ad & three imm T Argyle WASH 24 Jul, 6 Aug (BP); one ad three imm VF 3 Aug (JG). **Com. Moorhen**: one ad & eight y VF 31 Jul. **Am. Coot**: one MR near Nelliston MONT 14 Jun (TP). **Semipalmated Plover**: arr one Cohoes 27 Jul; max five FeR 24 Aug. **Killdeer**: max 37 Cohoes 27 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr one GI 13 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr 12 Cohoes 27 Jul; max 15 VF 23 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr seven FtE 27 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper**: arr

19 Cohoes 13 Jul. **Upland Sandpiper**: 11 ad & three y FtE 11 Jun (BP); 12 T Canajoharie MONT; 14 T Florida MONT; five T Minden MONT; six T Root MONT (all MA); 15-21 SCA 28 Jul, 23, 30 Aug (RP); four reports of singles. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr one MR 19 Jul; max 15 FeR 24 Aug (BP). **Least Sandpiper**: arr one T Argyle 24 Jul; max 24 StFl 27 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper**: one FeR 10 Aug (RG to BEN). **Stilt Sandpiper**: one juv SI 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: one FeR 12 Aug (F. Murphy to BEN), only report. **Com. Snipe**: four reports of singles. **Am. Woodcock**: one Indian Meadows SCHE 28 Jul (RP), only report. **Bonaparte's Gull**: five reports of singles. **Ring-billed Gull**: 1st juvs. arr 13 Jul; max 420 GI/Cohoes 27 Jul; 400 GI/Cohoes 2 Aug incl 27 juvs (WE, NM); 1000+ MR/Colonie Landfill 20 Aug (AV). **Herring Gull**: max 120 Cohoes 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 50 Cohoes 3 Aug (WE, NM). **Black Tern**: two Albany area 2 Jun (W. Watson).

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 11 reports of singles. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 18 reports of singles. **Barn Owl**: one 6-Mi Waterworks, Rensselaer L ALBA near intersection I87/I90 8 Aug (P Feinberg). **E. Screech-Owl**: five reports of singles. **Great Horned Owl**: nine reports of singles; two y heard nightly Amsterdam 15 Jul thru (TP), first in four years. **Barred Owl**: two Long Pd. T Hague WARR 31 Aug (BBi); eight reports of singles. **Com. Nighthawk**: one VF 2 Jun (G. Recer to BEN); one Schenectady 9 Jun, 20 Jul (RP); one one SI 4 Jul (WE); five Jonesville 20 Aug; four CL 22 Aug; two Guilderland 22 Aug (WE, NM); ten VF 24 Aug; 168 Saratoga Spgs. 25 Aug (JG); 31 Guilderland 25 Aug; 25-30 Delmar 25 Aug (BB, CB); 84 Saratoga Spgs 28 Aug (JG); one Feura Bush 30 Aug (WE, NM). **Whip-poor-will**: one T Hague WARR 7, 9 Jun, 13, 17 Jul (LM); one PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Chimney Swift**: max ten Slingerlands 24 Aug. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 12+ at feeder Warrensburg 20, 28 Aug; 27 banded JL through period, 1st juv JL 25 Jul (RY). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one NB 23 Aug (RG to BEN). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: numerous CISP; three NRP 27 Jul incl one juv (WE, NM); eight reports of singles. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: bred Amsterdam, three fledged (TP); four CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV); six reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: one singing SNHP 4 Jun (JG), late migrant, only report. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max 14 SNHP 4-5 Jun; nine CISP 6 Jun; 11 SkW 6 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: no reports. **Alder Flycatcher**: max 12 SNHP 4-5 Jun; 12+ Gallupville 4 Jun. **Willow Flycatcher**: max seven BCM 6 Jul. **Least Flycatcher**: max four CISP 22 Jun. **E. Phoebe**: max nine SNHP 13 Jul; two broods of four each banded JL 15 Jun, 11 Jul. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max 11 SNHP 4-5 Jun. **E. Kingbird**: max 29 FtE 29 Jul (WE, NM); four prs nested Amsterdam, last 26 Aug. **Horned Lark**: nested SCA (RP). **Purple Martin**: no reports, SL colony not checked. **Tree**

Swallow: over 100 banded by RY Amsterdam. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last two NRP 2 Aug. **Bank Swallow:** no nesting reports received; max 350-400 StFl 18 Aug (JG). **Cliff Swallow:** 11 active nests T Wilton 14 Jun (BP); last Rt. 20 Bluebird Trail 13 Aug (RP). **Barn Swallow:** no reports. **Fish Crow:** four T Mayfield FULT 9 Aug (Bill Evans), probable family group; four reports of singles. **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; max three Amsterdam 20 Jul (TP). **Black-capped Chickadee:** numbers down JL-only 11 banded bt 25 Jul-31 Aug (RY). **Tufted Titmouse:** one JL 27 Jul (RY), rare in Adirondacks. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 18 PB 28 Jun (HMBC); 25 banded through period JL; possible irruption (RY). **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max ten SNHP 18 Aug. **Carolina Wren:** eleven reports of singles; numbers up significantly. **House Wren:** max 18 SNHP 4-5 Jun (JG). **Winter Wren:** max five CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV); six reports of singles. **Marsh Wren:** nested BCM, VF; max five BCM 6 Jul (WE). **Sedge Wren:** one singing m SNHP 24 Jun-4 Jul (JG); one singing m New Swamp Rd WASH 27 Jul (WE). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** two CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV), only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** one Austerlitz 25 Aug (ADBC), only report. **E. Bluebird:** 43 fledged in 2 nestings 5R (CT); max ten FtE 27 Jul. **Veery:** max eight CISP 6 Jun; nine CDWMA 12 Jul; seven CSR 18 Aug. **Bicknell's Thrush:** 13 banded Hunter Mt GREE, seven banded Plateau Mt. GREE early Jun (VINS); no reports from other GREE peaks. **Swainson's Thrush:** one Poestenkill 6 Jun (BEN), only report. **Hermit Thrush:** max 11 PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Wood Thrush:** max eight CISP 22 Jun (JG, AV). **Gray Catbird:** max 24 NRP 27 Jul. **Brown Thrasher:** max five PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Cedar Waxwing:** widely reported throughout Region.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Solitary Vireo:** only three reports of singles. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** only three reports of singles. **Warbling Vireo:** max three CISP 6, 22 Jun; five River Rd WASH 23 Jun. **Philadelphia Vireo:** no reports. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 30 CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV). **Blue-winged Warbler:** max 27 SNHP 4-5 Jun (JG). **Golden-winged Warbler:** two SNHP 4, 10, 14 Jun; one m Argyle BBS 7 Jun (BP). **Nashville Warbler:** seven reports of singles; arr one T Wilton SARA 29 Aug. **N. Parula:** one singing m Harrisburg Rd WARR 26 Jun; one singing m Amsterdam 14 Aug (TP). **Yellow Warbler:** max 20 CISP 6 Jun; 17 NRP 2 Aug. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max four CDWMA 12 Jul. **Magnolia Warbler:** arr one SNHP 22 Aug (JG). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 11 CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr four SNHP 30 Jul (JG). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** one SkW 19 Jun (JG), late migrant; max nine CDWMA 12 Jul; arr one Gallupville 26 Aug (BBo, KB), early migrant. **Blackburnian Warbler:** six reports of singles; arr one Gallupville 24 Aug, early migrant. **Pine Warbler:** max four PB 28 Jun (HMBC); one FeR 24 Aug (BP, early migrant; four reports of singles. **Prairie Warbler:** two Thompsons L SP ALBA 3 Jun (W. Watson); six SNHP 18 Jun (JG); three TRd 26 Jun; 16 PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Bay-breasted Warbler:** one

TRd 1 Jun; one Gallupville 4 Jun; arr one Relyea Rd Guilderland 31 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: one Mead's Lane/Van Dyke Rd ALBA 1 Jun; one CISP 11 Jun (JG, AV); two prs Twin Mt. GREE 9 Jul (P. Rappleyea to BEN). **Cerulean Warbler**: at least 18 singing m CISP 2, 4, 24 Jun (B. Carr, BB, CB, JG, AV); one singing m Spier Falls Rd SARA 7 Jun (JG); 4-5 singing m Boucks Island SCHO 5 Jun (KA). **Black-and-white Warbler**: only two reports. **Am. Redstart**: max 28 CISP 22 Jun (JG,AV). **Worm-eating Warbler**: two Blossom Hill Rd ALBA 3 Jun (JG, AV), only report. **Ovenbird**: max 21 SNHP 4, 5 Jun (JG); ten SkW 19 Jun (JG); 14 CDWMA 12 Jul (JG, AV). **N. Waterthrush**: only three reports of singles. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: several along Terwilliger Creek Amsterdam 1 Jun thru (TP); four NRP 27 Jul (WE, NM); last Guilderland 5 Aug (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: seven reports of singles. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 23 SNHP 4, 5 Jun (JG). **Hooded Warbler**: one f Gallupville 1 Jun, stunned by window. **Wilson's Warbler**: one Gallupville 20 Aug, only report. **Canada Warbler**: only three reports of singles. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one PB 28 Jun (HMBC).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max six singing m SkW 19 Jun (JG); four SNHP 3 Jul (JG); eight other reports. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max seven Guilderland 30 Aug. **Indigo Bunting**: max seven SNHP 4, 5 Jun; five PB 28 Jun; seven other reports. **E. Towhee**: max 11 SNHP 4 Jun (JG); 40 PB 28 Jun (HMBC). **Chipping Sparrow**: no reports. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one singing m SNHP 1 Jul-early Aug (JG, mob). **Field Sparrow**: max 14 PB 28 Jun. **Vesper Sparrow**: max 14 T Canajoharie MONT; seven T FtE; seven MONT; four T Clifton Pk; three T Galway; two T Argyle WASH (all MA). **Savannah Sparrow**: max 52 T Canajoharie MONT; 34 T Root MONT; 30 T Minden MONT; 24 T Half Moon SARA; max 22 FtE; 17 T Florida MONT; 16 T Glen MONT; 16 T Knox ALBA; 11 FULT (all MA). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: four T Berne ALBA; three T Know ALBA; three T New Scotland ALBA; 21 T Canajoharie MONT; 18 T Florida MONT; three T Galway SARA; four T Argyle WASH; eight FtE; four singles (all MA). **Henslow's Sparrow**: two T Canajoharie MONT (MA); three-four singing m Dowmont Rd T Argyle WASH 28 Jun (JG); two Cary Rd. FtE 19 Jul (BP); only one breeding pr SNHP, two broods-five fledged; two other m banded. **Song Sparrow**: max 13 CISP 6 Jun; 16 SNHP 2 Jul; 40 NRP 27 Jul (WE). **Swamp Sparrow**: max 13 BCM 30 Aug. **White-throated Sparrow**: two SNHP 4, 18 Jun (JG), breeding? **Bobolink**: max 90+ in field across from Stop 2 SNHP 30 Jul (JG); 374 MONT (MA); 123 WASH (MA). **E. Meadowlark**: max 125 MONT (MA); 125 SARA (MA). **Orchard Oriole**: one imm m singing Amsterdam 8 Jun; one ad m singing Amsterdam 13, 15 Jun (TP); one imm Sinclair Pt. Sacandaga 13 Jun (BEN); one Kinderhook RENS 21 Jun (BC); bred Stuyvesant COLU (A. Long to ADBC); two juv FtE 19 Jul (WE, NM). **Baltimore Oriole**: max five CISP 6 Jun; seven NRP 2 Aug. **Purple Finch**: "lots" Warrensburg 7, 26 Jun; six BCM 30 Aug;

reported in small numbers throughout Region. **White-Winged Crossbill:** one imm FR 23-24 Aug (KA). **Pine Siskin:** "lots" Warrensburg 7, 16, 26 Jun (M.Di Pietro to BEN); 12 Hague 2,14 Jun (ER). **Evening Grosbeak:** "several" Warrensburg 7 Jun; two families Warrensburg 24 Jul (M. Di Pietro to BEN); three Hague 4, 17 Jun (LM); one Silver Bay WARR 4 Jul (LM).

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REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The summer started out with average temperatures and rainfall but ended with a very dry August.

The summer usually brings few reports and this year was no exception. But it was made up by a number of unusual sightings.

Included are the results of the survey of Huckleberry Island, Westchester County, organized by David Künstler, done in late May. Although the Double-crested Cormorant population was stable, they continue to decimate the forest and only 60-80% of the original canopy remains. Not surprisingly, Great Egret numbers were down on the island, but some observers commented that numbers were up in Region 9 after post-breeding dispersal. Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers were still low. Will the increase in cormorant populations around the state eventually hurt the egret and heron numbers? Only time and good science will tell. On a positive note, four pairs of American Oystercatchers were found on the island.

There were a number of unusually placed ducks. These included reports of Oldsquaw, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and Northern Pintail.

Tom Burke confirmed the breeding of King Rail at Marshlands Conservancy with a report of a downy chick in the company of its parents on 23 June. An American Avocet was present at Marshlands on 6-12 August. It was followed by reports of Red-necked Phalarope and two Whimbrel.

Ellenville in Ulster County continued with its propensity for good *Laridae* with a Forster's Tern found there on 2 & 3 June.

Common Raven numbers continue to increase but no one claimed to have found a nest or other evidence of breeding.

A second singing male Yellow-throated Warbler arrived on the Sullivan/Ulster Co. border. Apparently no females showed. No one reported confirmation of breeding.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found with the expected Saltmarsh species in Marshlands on 12 June during the Greenwich Summer Bird Count. It was reported that the marshes up in Maine had yet to turn green with the delay in warm weather this spring. This may be the reason the birds were still hanging out down here.

An Evening Grosbeak and three White-winged Crossbills were reported. Are these summering "winter finches" a sign of a winter invasion to come?

Contributors: Michael Bochnik, Thomas Burke, Valerie Freer, David Künstler, Jim Previdi, Stephen Seymour, Henry Turner, Alison Van Keuren.

Abbreviations: CCP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, PCSBC-Putnam County Summer Bird Count, RTWBC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, MC-Marshlands Conservancy.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-necked Grebe:** one MC through Jun. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 590 pairs Huck I 20 May. **Great Egret:** 31 pairs Huck I 20 May. **Little Blue Heron:** one Piermont 30 Aug; one OscawanPark 30 Aug. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** eight pairs Huck I 20 May. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** max three MC thru. **Glossy Ibis:** one MC 9 Jul. **N. Pintail:** one Cornwall Bay 30 Aug. **Greater Scaup:** one EGR 22 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** one Piermont 18 Jul. **Oldsquaw:** one male Fishkill Rural Cemetery 4-24 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Bald Eagle:** one CPP 23-24 Aug; one Stanford 30 Aug. **King Rail:** two adults with one downy young MC 23 Jun, seen throughout summer. **Sora:** one MC 29 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** max 55 western Orange Co. 31 Aug. **Am. Oystercatcher:** max three MC 19 Jun; four pairs found on Huck I 20 May. **Am. Avocet:** one MC 6-12 Aug. **Willet:** two MC 12 Jun. **Upland Sandpiper:** two Orange Co. 17 Aug. **Whimbrel:** two MC 13-14 Aug. **Long-billed Dowitcher** one MC 1 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope:** one MC 13 Aug. **Forster's Tern:** one Ellenville 2-3 Jun; three MC 28 Jul.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Com. Nighthawk:** two dozen Bedford Hills 26 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Bashakill 7 Jun; two Kitchawan Preserve 10 Aug. **Alder Flycatcher:** one MC 6 June. **Com. Raven:** eleven found on PCSBC 14-29 Jun., still expanding, no evidence of breeding. **Winter Wren:** numbers increasing, with scattered reports outside traditional areas.

VIREOS-WARBLED: **Yellow-throated Warbler:** two singing males on Route 97, Sullivan/Orange Co line thru June, no evidence of breeding.

Kentucky Warbler: widely reported in June. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one Vassar Farms 8-10 Jun; one MC 12 Jun; one SUNY Purchase 18-22 Jun.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** two MC 12 Jun. **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** two 6,12 Jun. **Seaside Sparrow:** one MC 9 Jun. **White-winged Crossbill:** three PCSBC 14-29 Jun. **Evening Grosbeak** one Claryville 7 Jun.

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REGION 10-MARINE

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Temperatures averaged one degree below normal each month for the entire season with few high and low extremes. When we couple this with a dry period throughout, except as noted below, this resulted in a most pleasant, bland summer. Actually June precipitation was 1.74 in. short and August 0.80 in. short. July was 4.01 in. over, but with 3.75 in. of it falling in one day on the 24th. This was typical of the summer; most rain fell in torrents resulting in less rainy days than the statistics would appear to show. Early reports suggest that the weather contributed to a breeding season that seems to have been quite favorable.

From Henry Flamm comes information of Double-crested Cormorant **nesting** on Shooter's Island off Staten Island. This is a range extension not previously reported here. The bird continues to expand in our Region. Non-breeding, summering birds are common now on South Shore bay beaches and pilings. It's probably only a short time before we find them breeding along the south shore, also.

After the huge flocks of **Common Eider** wintering off Montauk Point this past year, it would not appear too unusual to find a few lingering birds beyond the normal February departures. But, this time some **200** remained off the point throughout the entire summer. Spring birds are unusual. Summer birds are almost nonexistent. The size of this flock, at this location, at this time of year, is unprecedented

A pelagic trip on a University of Rhode Island research vessel to Block Canyon on 10-14 Jul reported the following from NY waters (Paul A. Buckley and Richard Veit): Cory's Shearwater, some Greater Shearwaters, **12 Manx Shearwaters**, four **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, **BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** (not on the NY list), and five imm. **Long-tailed Jaegers**.

There were twelve Peregrine Falcon pairs nesting on New York City buildings (4) and bridges (8) this season plus two Red-tailed Hawk pairs, also on buildings. In addition, Long Island *Newsday* reported on 6 Jun, in an almost full page story complete with photos and sketches, on a **first successful nesting for Nassau Co of Peregrine Falcon**. The nest was located on a 17th floor ledge of the Nassau Co Medical Center in East Meadow. An attempt last year produced eggs, but failed. The availability of truly isolated nest sites in the guise of man made aeries, conservation oversight (active and very important), and ample food (mice and pigeons) certainly is helping the process. Success of fledglings was not available as of this writing.

Another raptor report from Henry Flamm is of the first proven, successful nest of a **Broad-winged Hawk** on Staten Island at the Clay Pits Ponds State Preserve. (The Atlas project reported a possible nesting on SI and there is an unsubstantiated record before the turn of the century). The *Staten Island Advance* of 11 Jul carried the story in their "On Nature " column and also reported a successful Red-tailed Hawk nest.

The presence of four Eurasian Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) in Hampton Bays, SUFF, for more than one year now presents an interesting problem. At present there are resident populations in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and possibly elsewhere. The dispersion seems to have originated from the Bahamas where the species was inadvertently introduced some years ago. However, this species, and the Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. rosario*) which it resembles but from which it can be readily separated in the field, are commonly kept in captivity. So are these individuals part of a natural range expansion or are they escapes or releases? Hopefully someone will submit the record to the NYSARC and get the ball rolling on a decision as to the provenance, IF such a decision is possible. Get busy, you avid state-listers!

A further alert on possible range expansion, but admittedly a stretch, is the occurrence of two singing male Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows this spring as late as 16 June just outside of our Region at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye. These were undoubtedly late migrants. In the eastern part of its range, the species has not been recorded as breeding south of roughly Portland, ME. However, LI birders stay alert!!

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Taylor, Diana Teta, Chris Valle, Richard Veit, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin (AW).

Abbreviations: CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; CM-Cow Meadow, Freeport; FI-Fire Island; FP-Forest Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; In-Inlet; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; URI- University of Rhode Island research vessel to Block Canyon.

LOONS-DUCKS

Common Loon: one summered at JBWE.

Cory's Shearwater: URI 10-14 Jul.

Greater Shearwater: URI 10-14 Jul.

Manx Shearwater: 12 URI 10-14 Jul.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 25 SHIN 5 Jun; off Southampton 25 Jul (JF). **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** four URI 10-14 Jul (PB, RV).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: URI 13 July (PB, RV). [RRED: It is unfortunate that apparently no verification will be filed with NYSARC so this species remains only strongly rumored and not a part of NY State avifauna.] **Brown Pelican:** SHIN 12 Jul; FI Inlet 15 Jul; four Jones Inlet 15, 21, 27 Jul; eight Jones Inlet 28 Jul; three Jones Inlet 8 Aug, three Jones Inlet 17 Aug; 11 Rockaways 23 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: nesting on Shooter's Island in NY harbor, many summering birds throughout.

Am. Bittern: Sayville 31 Aug (SW), flushed from relatively open burn area in pine-oak woodlands (pine barrens), sightings in trees are unusual for this marsh ground nester.

Least Bittern: five with some being fed on SI at Atlas site 15 Jul.

Mute Swan: continue to proliferate.

Redhead: one summered JBWR East Pond.

COMMON EIDER: after the huge numbers that wintered off MP approx 200 remained through the summer; the size of this flock at this time of year is **unprecedented**. **KING EIDER:** four in ocean off Hamptons 10 Jun; three 13 Jun. **Black Scoter:** FI Inlet 30 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: Connetquot River SP 7 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: Douglaston 14 Jun; Edgewood Preserve, Suffolk Co 4 Jul; near Kissena Park, Flushing 6 Jul, soaring over residential area.

Bald Eagle: Fort Tilden 29 Jul (SW); JBWS 24 Aug (JF).

Red-tailed Hawk: two pair nested on NY City buildings, a recent and new phenomenon.

Peregrine Falcon: 12 nests are established on buildings and bridges in NY City; Nassau Co Medical Center in East Meadow, a first for the county.

Wild Turkey: two Wertheim NWR, Suffolk Co, more probably present.

Black Rail: Oak Beach marshes.

Sora: Pilgrim State Hospital late Jul.

Am. Golden-Plover: small numbers in eastern LI fields from late Aug (larger numbers in Sep).

Am. Avocet: two then three JBWR 6 Jul to early Aug; one to 16 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: four Rte 51 west of Riverhead late June to 1 Jul; 11 Dr's Path 3-4 Aug, lesser numbers to 30 Aug; seven Cutchogue 31 Aug.

Whimbrel: various late Jul to early Aug; five JBWR 31 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: Cupsogue Co Park late Jul; JBWR 19-31 Aug.

Marbled Godwit: two Dune Road 3 Aug; West Fox Creek, Great South Bay 7 Aug; two JBWR 10 Aug; one to 24 Aug; six 30 Aug; five 31 Aug, MEB 31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: Cutchogue 23-24 Aug; MEB 23-27 Aug; JBWE 11 Aug. **Buff-breasted**

Sandpiper: Dr.'s Path 18-21 Aug.

Ruff: JBWR 13-15 Jul; CM 7-13 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 12 Ju thru.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 19 Jul; JBWR east pond 19, 27-29 Aug; two 30 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: JBWR 12 Aug.

Parasitic Jaeger: MEB 16 Jul; Georgica Pond 18 Jul.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: five URI 12 Jul (PB, RV).

Black-headed Gull: Sagg Pond late Jul, one footed bird seen previously. **Lesser**

Black-backed Gull: single birds eastern LI 21-30 Aug.

Gull-billed Tern: birds nesting on bay islands, seen sporadically from various south shore locations.

Caspian Tern: MEX 27 Aug.

Royal Tern: over the ocean at Quogue 13 Jul (Art Cooley); three Westhampton Dunes 27 Jul; two Cupsogue 3 Aug; four Westhampton Dunes 14 Aug; eleven 24 Aug.

Black Tern: various early to late Jul; throughout Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Chuck-will's-widow: calling 9:00 PM St. Johns Pond Preserve, Laurel Hollow 13 Jun, a single occurrence but probably Nassau Co.'s first.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING

Red-breasted Nuthatch: an East End nester, extremely erratic in winter. This year it appeared on western LI as early as 20 Jul and in increasing numbers thereafter.

VIREOS-WARBLERS

Warbling Vireo: two Belmont Lake SP 7 June, uncommon breeder on the south shore; but now fully resident at HLSP; adult feeding fledgling in Aquebogue, a confirmation of nesting in an area where it has been rare of late (ES); this species is expanding on the Island in wooded areas.

Philadelphia Vireo: banded FI 11 Jun.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Hoffman Estate, Muttontown 23 Jun (MR). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** Prospect Park 18 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: banded FI 17 Aug; another FI 26 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: to 12 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: singing east of Connetquot River 7 Jun, also seen 1 and 8 Jun; banded FI 17 Aug, Muttontown Preserve 31 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: banded FI 9 Jun.

Dickcissel: FI 8, 25 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: CP 20 Aug.

Lark Sparrow: CP 20 Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: the areas of Suffolk Co where grasslands persist have produced exceptional numbers of singing birds, 50 pair in one report, 120-125 in another. When grasslands go, so do the sparrows.

Boat-tailed Grackle: increasing in the SHIN area.

Pine Siskin: JBWE heard 31 Aug (DF)

ERRATA

The **Semipalmated Sandpiper** reported in the Winter report should read **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER**: Great South Bay in East Patchogue 18 Jan (DT). [A typo which eluded us].

EXOTICS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: two to four Hampton Bay area, provenance unknown; see discussion in commentary.

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